

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 17th September 2008
(Sandalwood Centre)

Apologies: C Speechley, E & D Hughes, D Ward, B Boughen, R Dove, S Coddington, J Ketley, J Hall
M Smith said she'd offered apologies for the July meeting but they hadn't been noted.

Present: R Ketley, S & D Crabtree, B Darrand, W & N Gethin, M Hood, C & C Burton, N Marshall, L Nokes, M Smith

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising

1. In matters arising in the previous minutes – it was noted that ETM were carrying out repairs to the flooding spring/drain near the Fitness Trail start. This work has been done but isn't proving to be effective. They are to have another look at the problem.
2. Mairaid said that the Civic Trust *does* give out grants for trees and she will look into it.

ACTION: Mairaid to make enquiries with Civic Trust

3. Business Plan

3(i). Crime Reduction Plan

a Authorative Presence

Nothing to report from SNT. Don gave a report on the recent spate of damage caused by motor cycles, and theft of plants, including a very large pampas grass, and water lily from the bog pond. Don had met with the Crime Prevention Officer from SYP and discussed various options for reducing crime in the park, most of which we'd already considered. He agreed that the plans for the golf course (reducing hedge size and removing conifers) would be effective in reducing crime.

b Enforcement

Neil M said that there had been an operation targeting illegal motor cycles and 7 had been seized which had been causing problems in Intake and Wheatley. A burnt out motorcycle has been removed from the golf course.

3(ii) Designing Out Crime

a Golf Course

Neil and Lisa outlined problems that had been encountered in the planning of the project for the golf course:

¹ In accordance with the new Charity Commission Constitution, all general meetings shall be called Special General Meetings.

- (i) Neil M said that the fence costs had been underestimated and would cost £4081 for the height of bird mouth fencing that would be needed to comply with Health and Safety Regs. This could be got round by instead of bird mouth fencing, using existing concrete posts, purchasing an additional 30 posts at a cost of £300, and replacing the chain link fencing at a cost of around £1148, less the £900 from SNT.
- (ii) Lisa said that due to Construction Design and Management Regulations, it may be that the whole scheme could be put in jeopardy due to restrictions that would be placed on the work teams and the equipment that they would need to hire to comply with the regs – the costs would be too prohibitive. A decision is awaited on this on receipt of a report from Lynn Ellis H & S office.
- (iii) Sandra said that the conifer problem needed sorting at some stage, if not now then some time in the future and after all the hard work that Neil and his team had put into preparing the project, it would be a waste of effort if it didn't go ahead. She was in the process of preparing a funding bid for the replacement trees, picnic benches, bins and fitness equipment. This would be put on hold until a final decision was made.

3(iii) Park Development

Toilets

Don and Sandra had met with Carly to discuss this and it was proposed to have a meeting with Jane Miller and the elected members to discuss the way forward. Carly had subsequently contacted Jane Miller who declined a meeting believing it to be pointless – her position was as stated – no finance from the centre. The toilets will close in April unless a budget is allocated. Moira reported it was still the councillors' intention to raise the matter at budget setting meeting.

Don & Sandra then met with Carly and Mayor Winter in the park to discuss this and other issues. Possibilities for financing the toilets were discussed.

3(iv) Angling Club (not present due to family bereavement)

Maintenance

It was noted that rubbish continues to gather at the far end of the lake – Lisa reported that a quote has been obtained for a contractor to dredge it.

Rubbish left by anglers is becoming a problem. Discarded luncheon meat cans have been picked up, several in one spot – sharp edges left lying on the grass which is a danger to young children and wildlife. On the Big Tidy Up – all the litter at the far side of the lake was angler oriented. Fishing wire is becoming a real problem. It was felt by the group – and by comments made by the public too – that the angling club need to police the young anglers more.

It was pointed out that:

Young anglers fish opposite the 'no fishing signs'

The discarded tins were near to young anglers – though they denied they were theirs.

3(v) Bog Pond

Volunteer week/Make a Difference Day is scheduled to start week commencing 20th October. An application for funding for £798 of plants has been granted by SYCF.

ACTION: Sandra to arrange purchase of plants

3(vi) Communications

a. Web Site

Don said the web site was still going strong with regular visits daily - 400 *new visitors* to the site this month already and over 1200 visits. It is definitely working as our 'shop window'. It was necessary to purchase a spam filter at a cost of £10.

b. Notice Boards

(i) The new double notice board has been erected near to the children's play area – it was noted what a good job Tony Winders team had done in renovating the boards. Carol, Carolyne and Debbie will arrange to paint the frames.

(ii) The one on the toilet wall had been damaged by Sita several times with the large wheelie bin – this has hopefully been rectified by speaking to the workers and the managers.

c. Newsletters/promotional Material

Newsletters have been replicated from the web site and special edition copies created for the Tuby's fair and Aurora events and distributed to visitors in the park.

3(vii) Funding/Events

a. Aurora Event

A meeting was held between Don & Sandra and Aurora organisers the day before the event, and the decision made to cancel the fun fair day due to the waterlogged ground. The run would go ahead with revised routes and start and finish points.

The route was hastily rearranged and the event went ahead with around 1000 people attending - approx 500 running/walking. A lot of lessons were learned and the next event, should it be held in the park will be better facilitated.

Don, who arranged the entire route and the run, thanked all the volunteers who attended on the day and who worked hard to make it a success. Thanks also to Neil and the SNT – they did a great job, particularly regarding traffic management.

b. Music in the Park 2009

Stephen is in negotiations with Hothouse for the event and is hopeful of a good result.

c. The Big Tidy Up

Due to the efforts of John the gardener – it was hard work finding rubbish to pick up! The hedgerows claimed the most results, and bottles out of the lake.

Macdonalds Restaurant has been sent a letter thanking them for their staff time and involvement. Photos have been sent to the press.

- d. Quiz Night
Totally sold out, and in fact oversubscribed. Friday 13th February 2009 event is already taking names. Suggested we raise the price next year to £3 – agreed.
- e. August Fun Fair
Was a success and the notice boards drew lots of attention – reaping new members too. A total of £229 was raised, including a very generous donation from Roger Tuby. A letter of thanks has been sent to him. Sainsbury's donated a £20 voucher for prizes.
- f. Christmas meeting
Space in the function room in Wheatley Hotel has been booked for 17th December; people to order their own meals as last year.
- g. Funding/Treasurers Report
 - (i) Neil G gave an update on the financial state.
 - (ii) The insurance policy renewal for third party only from CIS cost £110
 - (iii) Lottery income was £29.92
 - (iv) The Gaming Licence is now due for renewal at a cost of £20 from DMBC

4. Any Other Business

- a. Neil stated he had written a response to Armthorpe Parish Council about the non-refunding of the hire of the hall.
- b. Sandra suggested a social event for sometime in 2009 with a continental theme.
- c. Sandra said that funding applications tended to ask for clarification of people CRB checked, or Child Protection Officers, and suggested some members of the group should perhaps have this 'certification'. Mairaid volunteered.
It was suggested that CRB certification only applied to the activity for which it was applied e.g. refereeing young football teams. Mairaid suggested CVS might be able to assist.

ACTION: Sandra to look into the possibilities and of the costs involved.

9. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 15th October 2008