

Friends of Sandall Park

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 18th April 2007

Present:

R & J Ketley, M Smith, S & D Crabtree, R Ketley, N & W Gethin,
E Hughes, S Parratt-Halbert, B Darrand, E Langstaff, D Ward,
C Stothard, N Marshall

Apologies: M Muddiman, M Hood,

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and accepted as a true record, with the exception of one point which required amendment: £4,820 was now in the bank from Awards For All – not £6,700 (the amount being applied for the wildlife boards).

2. Matters arising

No matters arising not on agenda.

3. Park Future

- (a) Proposed that the petition organised by R Smith and objecting to Pleveys moving onto the park could be supported by individuals rather than F O S P. Agreed.
- (b) Siggie said that the business plan is to be amended joining the 2 sections into one more manageable one. No further progress had been reported with regards to plans for the farm which include Mr I Thompson. Nigel Sumner is the person dealing with it.
- (c) Don asked what the group thought about exploring the possibility of re-opening the golf course, possibly as a franchise. It was agreed it would be beneficial to the park. Further information to be obtained from Lisa Carter, Concorde House.
- (d)

ACTION: Sandra to contact Lisa Carter

4 Events

- (a) Quiz night and sponsored walk raised £421.10 to be split two ways between us and Friends of Grove Gardens. Sandra thanked Wheatley SNT for their help and support in making the night a success.
- (b) Music in the Park was discussed with a view to cancelling it due to lack of sponsorship and funds. The only we could progress at the moment is:
 - (i) If we did our own poster and leaflet printing – Sandra and Don offered to do this but Neil Marshall said he thought they could arrange that.
 - (ii) Porta-loos were too expensive when we haven't sufficient money to purchase all that is required - Neil said he also thought that C F could guarantee the park toilets would be open for that night.
 - (iii) If we didn't pay for advertising.

It was agreed that a decision to continue would be deferred until the end of the month. Ron would get firm quotes for all items. Bell offered to donate cash to cover the shortfall, the group thanked her for the

offer but said it would manage with what they'd got. Further funding from C E N was being investigated by Sandra.

ACTION: Sandra to pursue further funding from CEN: Ron to get written quotes.

There was further discussion about the toilet facilities being open generally. They had been closed all winter and no sign of them re-opening. Sandra has been receiving complaints from members of the public, and from one member in particular who required disabled accessible toilets. Sandra had been in to clean the toilet personally in answer to his plight, and incurred the wrath of DMBC leaders. She had emailed Gail Newton about the toilets, but to date had not received a reply.

Sandra asked the group if we should not now take up the campaign as a group and it was agreed. She asked if the councillors could be counted on to put their case forward with DMBC and Eva said that she would.

ACTION: Eva to pursue our campaign within DMBC

- (c) **Fitness Trail:** Funding has been received; 6 new seats have been ordered; signs are being designed. 6 volunteers have come forward to be trained as walk leaders.

The launch date will be July 29th. Don said he wasn't prepared to organise a full public launch if toilet facilities were not going to be available. Neil Marshall said that he would arrange for toilets to be open on that date. No reply has been received yet to the invitation to R Winterton. Eva said she believed she would not be available, she was still trying to get an official quote from her office to support the initiative.

5. **Angling Club**

Sandra had spoken with Mick Woodland. The anglers are being plagued by a group of children causing damage to equipment, throwing stones at them and generally behaving in an anti social manner. Mick was concerned they would lose club members as a result. It is believed to be the same youngsters who have been causing the vandalism in the park. Sandra is liaising with Pc K Murphy on a regular basis to tackle this problem. Debbie advised the group that the park will be patrolled in future after 10.00 pm to try and alleviate some of the problems.

6. **Funding**

- (a) Weather lottery this month is £26.46.

(b) Ron had written to Ennerdale Residents Assoc. and Armthorpe Parish Council, Sandra had written to Edenthorpe Parish Council. To date no replies have been received. Neil gave Ron a couple of businesses to appeal to.

ACTION: Ron to write to 2 more businesses for sponsorship.

6. Wardens

It was decided that this can now be taken off the agenda. There is no likelihood of funding becoming available for wardens.

7. Projects

(a) Picnic area. The Concrete bases for the seats have now been installed. If funding is granted for the wildlife boards, further picnic benches may become available. The seats have now been moved from the bog garden and fish garden areas, but not without damage having already been caused.

(b) Wildlife Interpretation Boards.

(i) Sandra had decided to merge the wildlife board project with the Nature Trail project and abandon the 'Community Champion' application. The Veolia Trust application has been submitted and the first panel decision will be made on June 21st. If we pass that stage, the final decision will be made on July 21st. Planning is going ahead and Kingfisher school are keen to participate in the project. Debbie and Sandra will be revisiting the school to talk to the children.

(ii) Sandra had looked into the possibility of including Braille signage within the nature trail, but having liaised with RNIB decided against it – this type of board is an easy target for vandals, a current problem for the park. An alternative would be an audio guide and Braille book. She is looking into this but it is quite involved and may take some planning. Funding has not yet been applied for.

(iii) Sandra had visited Sandallwood Special School to include them in the planning of the nature trail. It was suggested to them that as the boards may be too difficult for some of the children to read, perhaps they could make their own tactile decorations to put in the park. The school will keep Sandra informed of any future participation.

Any Other Business

(a) Proposed that we have future meetings in Sandallwood centre as this venue is free and Clay Lane is now booking Wednesdays for a computer group.

(b) Discussion took place re charitable status for the group. It had been looked at before but was very complicated. Neil Gethin said he would look into it again.

(c) C Stothard stated that deep water signs were being considered after the recent accident involving a young child.

(d) Mrs Stafford had written a letter to the group with thanks for the memorial bench she had purchased. She was very pleased with the bench and it's chosen site.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th May 7pm Sandalwood Centre