

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 18th June 2008
(Sandalwood Centre)

Apologies: M Woodland, R & J Ketley, E & D Hughes, C Speechley, N Marshall, S Coddington,

Present: S & D Crabtree, B Darrand, W & N Gethin, M Hood, M Smith, C & C Burton, D Ward B Boughen, R Dove

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising

1. Debbie had obtained the paint for the angling posts and the angling club had done the painting. The posts looked a lot better and not the derelict impression they had been giving.
2. Picnic bench has been ordered and Ian Parkers team hope to have the base down this week.
3. Grass seed has not yet been put down around the picnic benches, Debbie will chase that up.
4. With regards to the hedging on Thorne Road, H & S have been contacted and a small fence needs to be erected in its place, this can be a 3 strand wire fence. Phil Hulbert raised no objections to taking out the conifers other than it would have to be done after nesting season towards the end of the year. It was requested that the deciduous trees were left in, and others would be planted to complement them.
5. Neil met with engineers with regards to the flooded area near the old boat house: it needs digging up again for further investigations as to the cause.

3. Park Future

(a) Business Plan

- (i) Don has had a meeting with Insp. Pete England and he has agreed to the plan. Carly has also agreed it. It was put to the group and it was unanimously agreed that the Business Plan should be accepted and progressed.
- (ii) Don said he would now go into more detail and would update the group verbally each month.
- (iii) Don has arrangements in hand to meet with the Crime Prevention officer from SYP and seek his views on Designing Out Crime in the park, this would be incorporated into the plan.
- (iv) Debbie said she would contact Pete Finnerty and try to obtain some crime stats from surveys as to people's fear or perception of crime in the park.

(b) Crime in the Park

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

- (i) No police present but Don gave an update on our perception: Two picnic benches have recently been damaged with the names Alex, Leanne and Joel. He has repainted them and put a notice on the web site and in the notice board.
- (ii) Also it was noticed today that one bird box has gone completely and another is hanging off its mount. It would appear someone is stealing them. As these were up a very high tree, it was suspected that a ladder had been used. Debbie said they removed a ladder from the bushes a few weeks ago – another check would be made to see if another one had appeared.

(c) Toilets

Eva had confirmed via email that the toilets would be funded annually. Moira said that since Eva had said this, Jane Miller has said this isn't the case and councillors may have to fund it from their ward money which wasn't acceptable, they had other plans for it. Moira stated that the toilets must be kept open at all costs and Chair reinforced this by saying that we need a firm commitment otherwise we're never going to get a conclusive answer and the Business Plan will be affected.

ACTION: Eva and Moira to continue to pursue this in the council.

(d) Communication

- (i) The charger for the mobile phone we purchased some time couldn't be located, and that phone is not now produced. A new phone has been purchased for £19.95 which includes a £10 phone card. The number for this can now be used for giving out to the public and will ensure we don't lose important phone calls which until now have had to be routed via the Clay Lane office. The number is 0750 332 9309.
- (ii) Don said the web site was doing well and lots of people were having an input. Connected to this was the fact that we were replicating the pages in the notice board and the impact from this has been tremendous with members of the public actively taking part in the park's welfare.

4 **Events**

(a) Charity Walks

The Aurora Centre event on 7th September is ongoing and arrangements are in hand. Don, Sandra and Debbie are to meet with Martin Blagdon to firm up the plans.

(b) Music in the Park

- (i) All attempts at funding have failed and all plans for the concert have now been cancelled.
- (ii) Sandra said she believed that the concert should be part of the Hothouse Festival and that we should now be making representation to the organisers for it to be included next year and for them to do the organisation. She has liaised with Stephen Coddington about this and he has agreed to take up the case. They will meet to discuss this at a later date.

- (c) Race Night
28th June, 7pm at Armthorpe Community Centre. Tickets £2 (150 available). Sponsors for races required – a donation of £25 per race is being sought.
Neil gave an update on the arrangements so far. Armthorpe Community Centre, having told us the venue was free, now say we have to pay £97. As there is too short notice to change the venue, we will have to pay this.
- (d) FOSP social event
Don had an idea for the group, with families and friends getting together for an informal afternoon and having a game of rounders and/or cricket on the golf course. Take a picnic if you want, encourage others to take part. If the weather isn't suitable, we can postpone. A date of 13th July was agreed upon, meeting around 3pm on the golf course. We need to borrow some rounders bats and balls – Don would contact Andy Maddox from Active Doncaster and see if he could lend us some.
- (e) Quiz Night:
Reminder for 24th October. Tickets £2, no food provided but can be purchased on the night.

5. Angling Club

- (i) Several members of the public have approached the angling club to report men leaving the park in the early hours (4am) of 1/6 with carrier bags full of fish from the main lake. They were described as 'foreign' looking.
- (ii) Barrie said they'd found an abandoned bivouac in the bushes on the far side of the lake near to the 'bus shelter': Ron had also reported seeing a tent alongside the hedge next to the nurseries. Sandra said she would advise the police and ask for some passing attention.
- (iii) Enquiries are continuing into the purchasing of fountains. Negotiations are required with SNT about connecting the electricity supply and it was agreed that FOSP could negotiate this with SNT. The ongoing costs for electricity could be clawed back from the fees the angling club paid, Barrie had been informed.

6. Funding

- (a) £29.92 received from Weather lottery.
(b) Neil presented an updated financial status.

7. Projects

- (a) B & Q Funding
The application was unsuccessful for duck houses and additional plants and bulbs. Don said he felt that all applications would now be very difficult with the economic climate and we would perhaps need to rethink our funding applications in future.
- (b) Outdoor Fitness Suite
The application to Awards for All was completed and submitted, but returned for a page that was missing. It was resubmitted again and returned because they now require someone who is an 'appropriately

qualified person' to be the referee as young people may use the equipment. It has been resubmitted this date.

(c) ABC Awards

Don submitted the application for a new notice board but this wasn't successful. However, we have now been given the opportunity, thanks to Carly, to acquire two notice boards which have been left unused in other areas. Don is currently renovating two of the panel frames, volunteers are required to paint the main frames once they have been sited in the park. New Perspex would be needed to put in the frames.

ACTION: SNT through Carly and Mick Wainwright to install the main frames;
Debbie, Carol and Carolynne to paint the main frames
Don to renovate the panels

8. Any Other Business

- (a) Barrie said that John the gardener was doing a great job in the park.
- (b) Moira asked if we'd considered Shell Better Britain for funding? Sandra said she'd look into it.
- (c) Debbie said there were some pot holes near to where the anglers sat, which they were dealing with.
- (d) Debbie said that she would be trying to have the sunken picnic benches near the childrens play area uprooted and resited onto the concret base on the corner.
- (e) Sandra advised the group of the liaison with GreenSpace, and their request for information for their national magazine. As a result we now have a picture and article about our fitness trails in their educational magazine Spaces & Places – issue 33 of June 2008.
- (f) Don and Sandra had met with representatives from Friends of Hexthorpe Park today who have been impressed with the progress our group have made and wanted an exchange of information.
- (g) Sandra informed the group that she'd applied for a bursary from CVS which if granted would allow us up to £200 in course fees which they run. She had applied for two for herself – Law and the volunteer and Finances for Charities. Any member of the group wishing to attend a course can select from the opportunities available if we receive the grant.
- (h) Siggy has emailed to say she has a large amount of bluebell bulbs and some chestnut saplings if we want them for the park. Agreed that we would have them.

9. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 16th July 2008