

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 19th March 2008
(Sandalwood Centre)

Agenda

Apologies: M Woodland, B Boughen, D Ward

Present: J & R Ketley, S & D Crabtree, B Darrand, N Marshall, E & D Hughes, W & N Gethin, M Hood

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising

None not already covered on agenda.

3. Park Future

(a) Crime in the Park

(i) Since reporting the unsavoury activity of single males around the toilets to Pc Neil Humphries, he has taken action by speaking to some of those concerned, and putting notices on relevant web sites and there have been no more incidents.

(ii) There has been a spate of further thefts of shrubs – this time from the copse adjacent to the picnic area to a value of £75. A crime report has been made.

(b) Toilets

It was mentioned at the last meeting that no more funding is being made available by the council. Chair stated that we need to rectify this problem before the end of the financial year and the toilets are closed down. It's not conducive to the efforts being made by the group for them to be shut. We also need to have a strategy in place for future years rather than revisiting the same problem each year. Chair mentioned the govt. document – Govt Toilet Plans – all cisterns go. And that she had been in contact with a Govt. dept. about this. Eva has been in negotiations in council and agreed to continue.

ACTION: Eva to pursue this in the council.

4 Events

(a) Charity Walks

The Aurora Centre is wanting to hold a sponsored event (run/walk/jog) in the park and have already had meetings with Neil M, Debbie, Sandra & Don. They hope to attract in the region of 3000 and it's hoped FOSP can also benefit from the influx of visitors. Suggestions include:

(i) A teddy bears picnic to attract youngsters. (Neil and Will will look at the possibilities for this).

(ii) Roger Tuby to provide rides (already arranged by Martin Blagdon)

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

- (iii) Trax FM to provide encouragement and entertainment (MB)
- (iv) Our own PA system could be used at the opposite end of the walk to provide entertainment/encouragement.
- (v) A FOSP stand with our display.
- (vi) Doggy refreshment area (with poo bags provided).

It was felt a music licence was already in force that covered the parks. Community First would provide logistical resources. The date set is 7th September.

(b) Music in the Park

A decision has yet to be reached within DMBC about funding. The deadline is drawing near (end of March) and a final decision needs to be made. Neil M suggested contacting Carly to finalise it one way or the other. No other funds are forthcoming. The date of 14th June would be for the concert if it were to go ahead.

ACTION: Sandra to contact Carly.

5. Angling Club

Corner pin reps were not present but it was reported that their application to continue to operate the fishing licence in the park has been approved for a further 3 years. Don will put an article on the web site to that effect.

6. Funding

- (a) £32 received from Weather lottery: 4 who were given lottery tickets as Christmas gifts have now dropped out.
- (b) Don is to do a quiz for an independent group, and they have agreed to run the evening as a fund raiser for FOSP.

7. Projects

- (a) Web site update
The web site is proving popular with an average of 34 hits daily. Don explained how simple it was to add comments and it was hoped people would contribute in this manner. He also explained that it was a simple process to add 'blog' entries and he would show anyone who was interested. Eva has already done this, Ron said he would take it up.
- (b) Adventure Playground
North Doncaster Development Trust had agreed to explore possible grant schemes for major projects but nothing has been received to date. Our link with the group – Gina Troy has now left and a colleague has taken over her workload. Individual funding bodies will eventually be sought for independent components of the playground.

(c) B & Q Funding

Debbie had advised Sandra of a funding possibility through B & Q. The criteria include B & Q supplying the goods and projects must be completed by September; there was a deadline of 28/3 for applications. Sandra had looked into it for 3 options:

- (i) Solar powered fountain for the lake – but it was found that B & Q don't supply these.
- (ii) Getting the large conifers taken down and putting up new fencing and ornamental trees. She had tried to contact Phil Hulbert but

had been unsuccessful. It was felt it was now too late for taking them down due to nesting season, but enquiries should be continued for a future project. All agreed that it would open the park up for a better view and be better for security reasons. Neil M suggested low level fencing. Moira Hood agreed to pursue this.

ACTION: Moira Hood to look into the possibility of conifer removal.

(iii) Some duck houses (dog kennels) on the islands for nesting birds; more bulbs, and plants for the bog garden.

It was agreed to pursue the latter.

ACTION: Sandra to submit application to B & Q

(d) Outdoor Fitness Suite

The application had been submitted but an email had been received requesting amendments. It was also intimated that even though the application could be resubmitted, it was unlikely that it would be successful as there was little of the funds remaining. Ron said that at a WACUP meeting it had been suggested doing a joint application for the PCT funding but in light of this there was not much point.

The email did however point out that the application could be submitted to the CEN small grant scheme. There were also other funding options available.

ACTION: Sandra to resubmit to the CEN grant scheme.

(e) ABC Awards

Don has submitted the application for a new notice board which would replicate the Hall of Shame on the web site and be utilised as a crime prevention measure.

Neil M said he thought there was another notice board in existence which had been taken down from a location in Wheatley. He would look into it.

8. Any Other Business

- (a) Eva suggested we should do another litter pick. Date to be arranged.
- (b) Neil & Will Gethin are working towards a Race Night. Venues and dates were discussed and it was felt late September or October would be a good time. Neil also gave an update on the current financial position.
- (c) Neil M suggested that we could hire out our generator as a means of raising funds. Ron to look into this.
- (d) A letter of support was read from Marianne Downing.
- (e) Sandra said she would be registering FOSP on a national database which linked volunteers to they type of group they were looking to volunteer for, this was as a result of attending a CVS workshop at Kirk Sandall.

9. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 16th April 2008

Apologies in advance from R & J Ketley.