

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 21st November 2007
(Sandalwood Centre)

Agenda

Apologies: B Darrand, D Crabtree, S Crabtree, M Woodland

Present: J & R Ketley, E & D Hughes, M Hood, J Hall, N Marshall, D Ward, N & W Gethin, M Smith, B Boughen.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising

(8) Sandra has replied to CEN

3. Park Future

Sandra and Ron met with Gina Troy of North Doncaster Development Trust. This is a funded body with a remit to assist community groups – she is going to update the Business Plan for us and provide funding advice. The group were asked to consider what projects they would like to pursue, Sandra has some in mind, taken from the Business Plan.

(a) Charitable Status

Nothing to report at this time.

(b) Crime in the Park

It definitely seems like we have turned a corner and there has been no further damage to date. Insp. England is in constant contact with Sandra and Don, and has walked the park himself to familiarise himself with the problems being experienced.

The park survived the school holidays and all our recent work remains undamaged, including the bog garden island! Success at last.

An interview was done on Radio Sheffield to this effect.

4 Events

(a) Health Walks

Two charity walks have been organised by Geraldine Gilling: Sun 18th November a Pudsey walk for Children in Need and Sun 16th December for Ben Parkinson. The group were asked to please support Geraldine, she's doing a marvellous job. The sponsor forms and all information are on the web site. It has been sent to the press.

(b) Volunteer Week

Very successful albeit 'volunteers as such' were thin on the ground. Thanks again to CF who turned up in force, and Corner Pin Angling Club. All the tasks were completed except straightening the leaning tree, which

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

may prove too difficult without snapping the roots. The visual audit folder was updated with the results and produced to the group. Thanks to Barrie and the angling team; Ron and Jean, Jackie and Don and Martyn Oxley for their time spent volunteering.

(c) Quiz Night

A reminder – 25th January at the police club.

Don has been asked by a couple of groups to run quiz nights for them. He is going to do it under the auspices of FOSP and the groups will make a donation to FOSP.

4. Angling Club

- (a) The 'No Fishing' signs have now been erected in the appropriate places.
- (b) Regular cleaning of the lake is now being carried out.

6. Funding

- (a) Weather lottery this month is £ is £26.46
- (b) Neil Gethin received a £500 donation from Lloyds TSB with a possibility of future funding for specific projects.

7. Projects

(a) Wildlife/Nature trail

(i) So far things are moving nicely. The 40 bird boxes were put up during volunteer week; the boards are being designed (an example was shown to the group); the benches have been ordered. We have saved some money on the boards and so have £690 to spend on trees and shrubs, which has been done. Sandra and Don went to Tickhill Garden Centre and they are kindly going to donate £200 of shrubs. They will deliver when they (the Crabtrees) return from holiday and arrangements are in hand with Neil's teams to get them planted. There will be 10 trees of differing kinds, and a line of 39 laurels to go down the side of the new footpath and behind the nature boards.

(ii) Sandra requested (through Vice Chair) if it was okay to spend about £100 of FOSP money on smaller plants to supplement the bog garden/tear shaped garden area? This was agreed.

(b) Additional funding

DMBC made £8000 available – through Wheatley Ward Councillors – thanks to them for earmarking the cash – to be spent in the park. A decision was made to enhance the picnic area/outdoor classroom by putting in paths to enable wheelchair/pushchair access to the nature boards and picnic benches. There was sufficient left over from this to purchase two more picnic benches. Sandra suggests a letter of thanks to the Highways dept. (Dave.Snell@doncaster.gov.uk) for a prompt and efficient job.

ACTION: Ron to email/write to Dave Snell

8. Any Other Business

- (a) A newsletter was designed and circulated, one copy is in the notice board. We could do a Christmas one. Any ideas for content?
- (b) Don suggested acquiring some reeds from Sandall Beat, to put in the bog garden 'D' surrounding the island. Enquiries are in hand to see if this is viable.

- (c) Neil gave an interim finance report: Income £8595: Expenditure £6949 with a current balance of £2660.70.
- (d) A vote of thanks was given to Don and Sandra in their absence for all the hard work they'd done during the year.

9. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 19th December at Wheatley Hotel: social evening not a formal meeting

Note from Chairman: For those that don't make it to the social Do, have a good Christmas, and thanks for all your efforts this year. You really did make a difference.