

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 20th February 2008

Apologies: S & D Crabtree, B Darrand, Sgt. Millward

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

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Read and accepted.

2. Matters arising

(AOB) Recycling bins: Sandra has spoken with Tony from Resource. He said: "It involves the term of SITA's contract, which isn't up until 2009. As and when the tender process for the contract moves on it's likely that we'll be asking interested bidders to consider new elements, like recycling for commercial customers or recycling in public places. As long as this current contract with SITA is in place developments like this are very unlikely, as it would involve major changes. With something like only 18 months or so remaining the expense/investment isn't something they'd consider. Bring banks would still be an option and could be introduced in the same way as you would consider any other new site.

3. Park Future

(a) Neil M stated that the toilets could be closed again after April as no provision for their upkeep had been included in the budget.

Crime in the Park

(a) A lot of 'single male' activity in and around the toilets had been noticed by Sandra and Don whilst planting a tree on Sunday morning 20th January, and subsequently every weekend thereafter. The police and CF have been made aware. It is something that needs pursuing if we want families to enjoy the picnic area in a safe environment. We don't want the toilets closing as a result of this offensive behaviour. The toilets are paramount to all the good that's going on in the park.

(b) Don & Sandra have made contact with the new PC - Neil Humphries and have apprised him of the parks' problems. He is keen to become involved and offer all assistance he can.

(c) On a positive note – every crime we recorded in the park is now detected. Aaron has now been interviewed and admitted all the damage to benches etc. He received a reprimand (this still means his details are recorded in case of further offending) but at least the damage has stopped. He was the last one – no further damage since.

(d) The angling club members reported seeing no further damage and Debbie said that a regular watch was being made.

4 Events

(a) Neil M reported that a meeting was being held tomorrow with the organisers of charity walks for Aurora.

(b) Miraid asked about the possibility of the council organising walks for health around the park. Eva was to look into it.

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

- (c) The quiz night was a success and £263 had been raised. As a result of the quiz night, another friend has bought a tree as did Pat Ellis.
- (d) Ron reported that he was in negotiation with a source that may quote for the supply; delivery, erection and dismantling of the stage, canopy and lighting for music in the park. He estimated that a budget of around £4,000 would be required. Neil promised to investigate possible sources for the funding. A company were at present looking at the compound as a possible storage facility and an anticipated rent of &500 per month could possibly be used as a source of funding for the concert. Eva was to contact Janet Sissons of Hothouse who may be able to supply sources for the equipment needed.

4. Angling Club

- (a) Angling club reported that a young angler had been assaulted and his fishing tackle thrown into the lake, this had been retrieved for him by the club members. Enquiries as to the names of the offenders were ongoing.
- (b) The offer of paint for the legs of the fishing signs was accepted and the club will contact Ian Parker.
- (c) Ron will send a letter of support for the renewal of their application for fishing rights in the park.
- (d) Jean said that it had been noticed that the lake was being kept clean and in good order.
- (e) Mick raised the question of dogs in the park and said should the owners be made to keep them on a lead especially near the lake as some had been seen chasing the birds. Neil M said that the only stipulation made in the rules was that dogs should be kept under control and a law enforcing the use of a lead would be difficult to uphold.

6. Funding

- (a) Lottery receipts were £27.72 this month. Concern was expressed that this figure would shortly be reduced as membership given by Sandra as Christmas presents would expire shortly.
- (b) A lady called Marianne Downing had made a generous donation of £160 in lieu of joining the lottery scheme and had also purchased a tree. She wished to become a member of FOSP though couldn't attend the meetings as they clashed with other arrangements. Sandra will update her on a regular basis.
- (c) Barrie suggested that we could produce a park calendar as a possible fund raiser.
- (e) Don is applying for a grant from ABC Awards for notice boards for the park. They will be a reflection of the web site and used for crime prevention purposes. The maximum that can be applied for is £2000.

7. Projects

(a) Wildlife Nature Trail

- The launch went ahead successfully, the rain stopped to allow Eva to cut the ribbon with the Veolia Rep watching on. A reception at the Wheatley Hotel went well and Eva gave a speech which will stand us in good stead for future projects with the funders. Kingfisher school attended with a contingent of pupils and all aspects of the group were represented. Articles have appeared in Free Press; Entertainer; Doncaster News; Advertiser.
- (b) Web site update**
 - (i) Don & Sandra shopped around and got an excellent deal with a local Wheatley company Flicks Media. They've thrown lots of extras in and we now have an exciting new design. The college only do 1 day courses for web design so it wasn't considered an option to go for a student.
The new site cost £411 altogether, with over £300 of extras thrown in. We may have the option of having an on-line survey facility which we will have to pay for. We had

to pay again (£74) to re-register the site with another host, so we lost out on a year's payment that we made to the previous web manager, but it had to be done – we now have a much better site and full control. Another facility we are getting is a 'blog' where we can put daily updates on – like a 'breaking news' page. Don suggested that SNT, police and the councillors have a password for this so they can append their comments if they wish. Don is to meet with SNT & police to discuss this. Anyone on the group could have a password if they want one.

(ii) Sandra suggests a photo competition (via email to the group) to acquire photos for the new web site gallery. Neil G suggests leaving it until spring when the park will look better. Debbie suggested contacting Doncaster Camera Club and do it in partnership with them; Sandra has done this and will be liaising with them.

(c) Welcome notice boards

Sandra suggests It would be a good idea to put these on hold for the time being – if we are applying for funding for fitness equipment and adventure park, the signs would soon be out of date. Better to wait until the projects are complete or at least underway so they can be marked on the map.

(d) Additional picnic benches

It was suggested that two new picnic benches be purchased for the area near the dell also that further bulbs should be bought for planting. The treasurer said that although these ideas were sound we should exercise caution in spending as our funds would be stretched in view of future commitments.

(e) Adventure Playground

Sandra's 'think big and then downsize' attitude towards the adventure park is actually what it's turning out to be - downsizing into bite size chunks. The £3.2 million which it was thought was available isn't. The £800,000 that Gina Troy mentioned at the meeting is reduced to £5000 per application. So: a further suggestion:

Sandra to apply for £5000 from PCT for some items of fitness equipment. Don & Sandra have been liaising with Ian Parker re the siting of this. 4 pieces of kit can be bought for £5000 and then pieces can be added as more capital is acquired.

In the meantime, NDDT is researching funders for the adventure park, but instead of going for the big bang, it's been suggested that we approach different funders for different components and do the project in stages. If we get the money from PCT this initial project can be completed pretty quickly as long as Ian's team will be available for installation, and then we can make a start on the Adventure Park.

8. Any Other Business

(a) Angling club reported that they were seeking funding to install a fountain in the park; however each application had been met with the response that FOSP had already received funding from that source. They are to produce costing for this project. Neil M was concerned as to the source of running costs for the project as no budget was available from his sources.

(b) Neil M suggested that we invite members of Community parks dept. to our meetings in future.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

9. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 19th March 2008