

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 17th March 2010
(Sandalwood Centre)

Apologies: L Nokes, S Crabtree, M Smith

Present: D Crabtree, E Hughes, D Bewell, R & J Ketley, M Downing, S Stokes, M Hood, W & N Gethin, C & C Burton, N Marshall, M Wainwright

In the absence of the regular chair and the deputy chair Neil Gethin proposed that Don Crabtree chair the meeting. This was seconded by Neil Marshall and agreed by the meeting.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

- i. Moira Hood has raised the issue of damaged park fences (by vehicles) with Jane Miller and she was going to pursue the matter
ACTION: Moira to report back on this issue
- ii. Rachael Blake had raised the Dog Control Order with Community Parks Dept who had in turn returned the issue to her pointing out costs implications and the need for the involvement of the legal Department.
ACTION: Rachael to follow up Dog Control Order
- iii. Rachael Blake had requested information from the DMBC enforcement team with regards to the 7 day rule for tracing offenders but none was forthcoming at this stage.
ACTION: Rachael to follow up 7 day rule
- iv. The trees that had been purchased as part of the golf course project have been traced and have now been planted in the park in the form of a copse to replace those blown down several years ago. Thanks to Les and his team.
- v. FoSP membership of BTCV has been confirmed..

3. Business Plan

3(i). Crime

- a Don reminded everyone of the format of the business plan and its content. He pointed out that the majority of the plan had been achieved but the notable exception was that of enforcement by the authorities. He said that although agreed by both the police and council, enforcement had never been achieved and that ALL evidence for enforcement issues had been as a result of evidence provided by FOSP members.

This had now been brought to a head when a FOSP member had been assaulted in the park recently when he attempted to gather evidence re offences being committed. He stated out that this was no longer acceptable and wanted the authorities to tackle the issue of enforcement.

Neil Marshall said that indeed this incident had prompted discussions within the council that would be reported on when completed. He also pointed out a

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

consultation that was taking place within neighbourhoods when communities were being asked about when and where resources should be targeted and this for example could result in the deployment of resources in the park on a Sunday afternoon – which is not the case at the moment.

Don highlighted the fact that this is now critical for the group as it is key to the protection of park visitors and FOSP volunteers.

ACTION: Neil M. to report back on the outcome of future internal discussions on this subject

3(ii) Park Development

a. Playbuilder Project

The actual play area is now complete but the area will remain fenced off for a couple of weeks to give the grass turf chance to 'take hold'. Don said that Ann Simms had informed him during a site meeting that the removal and renovation of the boat house area was now not part of Playbuilders but would be pursued later by Ian Parker. Everyone in the meeting was surprised by this information as they thought it was part of the Playbuilder project.

ACTION: Don to send an Email to Ian Parker as for clarification of the position.

b. Future Projects

i. Dog Fouling

Don pointed out that Chris Yates had made a submission to the police authority for the funding of 'dog poo kits' to be handed to dog walkers in the park to encourage dog walkers to pick up after their dog. He suggested having a day when FOSP and SNT members could be in the park to push this message along with display boards on the work of FOSP. Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May at 2pm was suggested as a suitable time and date. Neil M said he would make enquiries because his team were already working at an event in Intake and may not be able to attend.

ACTION: Don to confirm and notify if this date is suitable after consultation with SNT.

ii. Lake Edging

Moira and Eva said that there had been a meeting with Cllr Mark Thompson on this issue and at this time things appeared encouraging although there was much work to be done. The main issue was that Sandall Park should be considered a Borough-wide resource.

ACTION: Eva to report back on progress

iii. Lake Sculptures

Don pointed out a suggestion made by Derrick about sculptures of animals placed in the lake. He then produced a newspaper with an example of metal sculptures placed in lakes at other Yorkshire locations and the possibility of this being funded through an arts grant. The group agreed that this idea should/could be pursued.

ACTION: Sandra to enquire about this possibility

3(iii) Angling Club

No report from Corner Pin.

Neil M informed the group that as from April 1st the Corner Pin Angling Club would relinquish their lease. This would mean that if fishing continued on the lake previous fishing club rules would not exist and there would be no restriction on numbers, times, location, numbers of rods etc. It had previously been agreed by DMBC, FOSP and elected members that there would be no fishing in Sandall Park for a trial period of 6 months to assess the impact in the park. Other options would then be considered.

Don asked about what action was going to be taken to make sure fishing did not continue. A healthy discussion then took place about what action to take. It was agreed that 'NO FISHING' signs would be erected by the council and the existing wooden fishing pegs be marked 'DUCK FEEDING STATION' or similar. The council would 'police' the area with regular warden visits.

Don then suggested that the problem area would be the far side of the lake – the 'North Bank' this was supposed to be a wildlife refuge but over time fishing had crept in to the area and he suggested that the area could be rotivated as we did near the bog garden - this would discourage illegal fishing.

ACTION: Neil M. to arrange for NO FISHING signs, marking of the fishing pegs, possibility of rotivating the far side of the lake and wardens to patrol.

3(iv) Communications

Don pointed out that the notice board on the wall of the toilets had been damaged again by the dustbins being wheeled from the café to the car park.

ACTION: Neil M. to arrange contact with the refuse collectors.

Don also pointed out that the notice boards have not been updated for some time and the reason was that following the assault in the park on FOSP members Sandra did not want to visit the park and that updating the notice boards was a two man job. They will be updated in due course – but not yet.

ACTION: Don to arrange

3(v) Funding/Events

a. Funding

- i. Don reported that a funding proposal had been accepted by Trax/Grassroots for the purchase of 250 cotton carrier bags with our logo and some narrative on. He pointed out that the funding was for £291 based on previous bags purchased but unfortunately the company we had dealt with previously had gone in to liquidation and was no longer trading. The result was that more recent quotes were substantially dearer. It was agreed that the shortfall would be paid by FOSP.

ACTION: Don to go ahead and purchase the cotton bags.

- ii. We have had the income from the Weather Lottery, and donations from the media, with no expenditure other than Dog Waste Carriers and printing expenses.

- iii. Don said that the proposal submitted by Chris Yates to purchase Dog Waste carriers had been successful and that £351 would be available.

ACTION: Sandra to purchase.

b. Treasurers Report

Was presented and reported to be in a healthy position.

c. Music in the Park 2010

- i. Ron has now arranged for suitable sound equipment for the event. It was proposed and agreed that the groups generator be serviced and maintained by Mr Len DERX. In return he could use the generator when required. At the moment the generator was actually not working and unusable. Ron would liaise prior to the event and ensure it was suitable for the sound equipment.

- ii. Don then ran through a check list of things that needed to be completed for the event:

Application form – Ron to complete

Raffle – Sarah arranging and organising on the day

New fence banners – Ron arranging

Staging – Don arranging

Gazebo – Don arranging

- Union Jack flags – Sarah arranging
Display boards – Don arranging
Programmes – Ron to arrange content/Don arranging design and printing
Posters – Don designing and arranging printing.
- d. Health Walk 7th March
Twelve people attended and took part.
 - e. Fake Festival
Tickets have been printed and being sold in local shops. FOSP (Don) has an amount of tickets if anyone wants any. We also have some posters and the event is being well featured on the web site.
 - f. 5-a-side Football: Sport Relief 18th March
We are entering two teams. Players will meet at 5.30pm. Supporters and pall bearers welcome! £7 per player goes to Sport Relief Funds.
 - g. Race Night
A date has been fixed for Friday 1st October 2010 at Club 39. Neil G said he had already booked the organiser.

4. Any Other Business

- a. Sarah asked what was the position with CCTV. Don said that there had been a meeting with DMBC CCTV officers and they were in support but there was work to be done in registering with the Data Commissioner and arranging for a Data Controller. The SNT were exploring the feasibility of themselves being Data Controllers although the equipment and system would actually be owned and run by FOSP. This was not normal practice for CCTV systems so enquiries have to be made.
ACTION: Rachael to discuss this with the police.
- b. Mick Wainwright then produced and donated two shield trophies to be presented to the winners of the Aurora Care to Run event. One for the men and one for the first woman. Don thanked Mick for this kind donation.
- C. Eva referred to the lake edging project and said that if this went ahead the intention was for the project to include a fountain and electric to the lake.
- D. Don pointed out that the hedge next to the main car park on Thorne Road had been reduced in size. This now enabled a clear view of activity in the car park and should reduce much, if not all the unsavoury activity that at times took place.
- E. Don informed the group that the funders of the Golf Course Project had requested and arranged a ministerial visit to view the project at 10.30am Friday 26th March 2010. The minister would in fact be our own Rosie Winterton MP. Anyone free to attend was welcome. Other visitors on the day would include members of the funding team that we have been liaising with for the last year but never met.

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm

5. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 21st April 2010