

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 17th August 2011
(Sandalwood Centre)



Present: D & S Crabtree, R & J Ketley, C & C Burton, M Downing, C & H Stokes, N Marshall, M Smith, D Bewell, E Langstaff, Lucan Handley

Apologies: F Larkin, N & W Gethin, E Hughes, S Stokes, Laura Handley, M Hood

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

- a. Fires: Emma said that the arsons remain undetected as regards the fires: destroying a bin and the large willow tree. The information supplied by Cllr Hood didn't provide a result.
- b. Business cards – Don has spent some time with the designer picking the right product for us, but has finally agreed a generic business card for all the group to use.
- c. ID Badges - a tentative look on the website has revealed a few suppliers. Neil M said he could probably source some through DMBC though we would have to pay for them. Don thanked Neil for the offer but held it in abeyance for now while further sources were looked into.
- d. Chairs: An amount of chairs has been acquired for use at our upcoming events.
- e. Fairground rides in park: Sandra has contacted Roger Tuby and it is as thought, he didn't think it would be viable financially.
- f. Pete of Hyde Park Social Enterprise: Sandra hasn't had chance to contact him yet.
- g. Goal posts: Neil M said they were filled in the following day after the meeting and the problem being highlighted, though they were replaced by goal posts shortly after that.

3. Business Plan

3(i) Crime

- a. Sandra said that shortly after the last meeting she and Don arranged a meeting with Police Insp. Hardy who now covers the park area. The meeting was frank and discussed all the relevant issues relating to the park. It was a very positive meeting and they felt that things would change in relation to enforcement in the park.
- b. CCTV: Within days of meeting with Insp Hardy a CCTV camera had been installed covering the toilet block and main car park.
- c. Emma said that plain clothes and uniform patrols have been operating in the park with particular emphasis around the toilets. There had been no evidence of unsavoury activities within this time.
- d. There had been an incidence of graffiti near the children's play area and this has been removed.

3(ii) Park Development

a. Projects

i. Adventure Trail:

Sandra has submitted the application. The funders requested that it be a joint bid between the council and the group so that the council can reclaim the VAT. Meetings have taken place between the relevant departments within council, Sandra and Don and an agreed format arrived at.

ii. Heritage Garden

After the last meeting Gerwyn Jones was contacted at the grounds team and the following day he produced numerous plants to go into the heritage garden
The concrete base on the approach to the notice board is now in place.

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

The area was officially 'launched' with Margaret Frost, a descendant of the occupiers of the park bungalow, and Jez Lee of FakeFestivals cutting the ribbon. Numerous members of the group attended the launch.

The topiary figures continue to do well, albeit the ivy is slow growing.

iii. Fountains on lake

It is hoped that a fountain will be installed in the not too distant future.

iv. Lake edging

The bid has been through the ODR (officer decision record) process and is now awaiting the appropriate finances.

v. Hosepipe Connection

To be followed up, enquiries are being made.

ACTION: Sandra to follow up on hosepipe extension

vi. Damaged Fencing

Neil M has made enquiries and Bob Allan has said it will be fixed by the end of September if not before.

vii. Stage in the Park

a. Don was not now in favour of pursuing this project. He and Sandra, together with Neil M had attended two recent meetings with other council officers regarding the proposed Adventure Trim Trail project and had been completely put off by the attitude towards it from the other council officers. One meeting, lasting an hour and half threw all sorts of obstacles in the way, but by the end of the meeting they had all but disappeared and the project was to go ahead. A lot of negativity but with the same end result.

b. Sandra has requested information of all relevant council departments for protocols that a stage project would entail, to prevent this happening again. Neil M said that this process would now be carried out by him and his team as their roles had changed and they would become more involved in such projects.

ACTION: Neil M and Sandra to discuss the way forward

3(iii) Angling Club

a. Lucan said they hoped to do a full litter pick of the lake and the bog pond in the next month.

b. Sandra pointed out that the group had now been going a year and that we should now consider waiving the repayment of the insurance premium we had loaned them at their start up. All agreed the premium repayment should be waived.

c. Neil Marshall said that as a year had passed, this meeting could stand as a review of the angling club. He stated that there had been some issues during the year but these had been sorted out and that they, the council, were more than happy with the way things had been run over the last 12 months. All agreed that this was the case from FoSP point of view. Lucan was thanked for his efforts and all the hard work that he, Laura and their bailiffs had put into the club.

d. Lucan said that any information passed on to the club will be acted upon promptly.

3(iv) Communications

a. Shopping Bags

250 more shopping bags have been purchased. The slogan has changed from being about plastic bags to the fact of our winning the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Samples were produced to the group.

b. Web site

As popular as ever and has reaped a few lines of enquiry for the history of the park. An on-line survey about a stage in the park resulted in 37 positive replies and 3 negative. A question has been asked for a reason behind the 'negatives' but to date no responses received.

3(v) Funding

a. Funding

Ron said he'd sent a £50 donation cheque to Gary, the sound man, for his services in relation to the concerts in the park, which he does free of charge.

b. Treasurer's Report

Nothing to report at this time, treasurer not present.

3(vi) Events

a. Queen's Award

Our award was presented by the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire at a Civic Reception hosted by our Civic Mayor Eva Hughes at the Mansion House. It was a splendid evening with our youngest member Harrison Stokes collecting the scroll and our eldest member Marianne Downing collecting the Symbol. Thanks were offered to Eva for ensuring an evening befitting the occasion. Both the scroll and the Symbol are now in a locked glass cabinet in the Tourist Information Office in Doncaster for all to see. There is also a framed explanation about the award and about the Friends of Sandall Park.

b. Tombola

i. Reminder that volunteers are needed on the day. Any goods to Jean for numbering please

ii. Neil M said he could provide staff if the event was on the Sunday. It was agreed that it should be changed to Sunday 28th August: 2pm – around 5pm. Volunteers should attend around 12pm to set up, Mairaid will assist. Mick Ward was due to collect the gazebo's and take them to the park but this will need to be confirmed now the day has changed.

iii. Neil M said that as his staff would be on duty, they could canvass people with a survey for the stage in the park.

ACTION: Neil to draw up a survey questionnaire.

c. Doncaster in Bloom

Don and Sandra were in the park when they received a phone call from Anita Johnson to say she was on her way there for the judging. They were totally unprepared but fortunately, apart from some graffiti which was discovered on the tour of the park, it looked extremely tidy and very attractive.

e. DCB Concert (September)

Neil M arranging for bins and 3 members of staff. It will be a 3pm start till around 5.30pm. Ron to check with the band that they've arranged for Gary to attend with his amplifier. The chairs will be available.

f. Care to Run (September 11th)

i. Marshalls so far: Carol; Carolyne; Colin; Sarah; Harrison; Derrick; Mairaid.

ii. Neil M will arrange for staff (8am start), bins, barriers and for a vehicle to be made available in the region of the football pitches in case of any injuries requiring transport.

g. Race night (September)

Sponsors sheets are going well, unfortunately tickets aren't doing so well. Other voluntary groups have been invited to attend (they would be allowed to keep the ticket money for the tickets they sold and we could make a donation if all their ticket holders attended the event) but we don't know how many will be attending yet. As Neil and Will aren't able to be at the meeting, we will defer a decision until they come back as to whether to proceed. The only thing that seems certain is that Binns are on their second sponsor sheet and are likely to bring 10.

g. Santa Dash (December)

Nothing to be done at this stage – merely appended to the agenda.

4. **Any Other Business**

- a. Mairaid said she'd heard an article on the radio about a company wanting locations to do orienteering in, and thought Sandall Park to be ideal.
ACTION: Derrick to look into the information Mairaid provided
- b. Carolyne suggested it might be worth investing in some of the rubber wristbands that other charities sell to raise funds. Agreed it was a good idea.
ACTION: Carolyne to look into viability of wristbands
- c. Carol suggested buying proper food for the swans to give them a fighting chance of having more than one cygnet, particularly through the winter when food was scarce. It was discussed about also bagging food up and asking a donation from the visiting 'duck feeders' Agreed – food to be purchased to supplement the wild bird's diets. Carolyne also pointed out that there had been articles saying that wild geese and swans liked cooked potatoes. (café leftovers??)
- d. Jean suggested that the area in front of the café where the outside tables were looked an eyesore, and couldn't something be done about it. Neil M said he would look at the options.
ACTION: Neil Marshall to enquire into the maintenance of the area in front of the café.
- e. Don said that the quest to solve the train mystery was still ongoing. A 'google' search revealed hundreds of trains all over the country, particularly the coast! Although – it's still looking interesting that the dates of ours leaving SP and the one arriving at Plymouth seem to match. Further enquiries to be made.
- f. Colin said that the Stables pub would sponsor a race for race night.

Meeting closed 8.10pm

5. **Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 21st September 2011, 7pm
(apologies from Neil M)