

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 8th June 2011
(Sandalwood Centre)



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

Apologies: S Rashid, E Hughes, W Gethin, M Wainwright, M Smith, F Larkin

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

i. Damaged fencing – *Still* not resolved. Sandra was concerned that this had been going on for some time – since 2008 actually – with no end in sight. Neil M said he would try and source some replacement fence panels.

ACTION: Neil M to source fencing panels

ii. Sandra has purchased a first aid kit for use at events.

3. Business Plan

3(i) Crime

a. No updates from police.

b. Ps J Hunter had contacted Don about meeting to discuss park issues but so far nothing has progressed.

ACTION: Don to continue trying to contact John Hunter

c. Numerous benches have been damaged in the park again by scratching through the paint. The name Allie and 'Allie Babba' is cropping up everywhere again. Neil M noted this for further enquiries.

ACTION: Neil M to make enquiries with police

d. Several people have been tackled by volunteers about not having their dogs on leads around the wildlife. Some complied, others refused outright.

3(ii) Park Development

a. Future Projects

i. Adventure Trail:

Sandra is almost ready to submit a funding bid to Veolia. The only problem with this source of funding (should we be successful) is that last time we had to pay for goods up front before claiming the money back. Enquiries are being made through DMBC to see if they can assist with this.

ACTION: Sandra to liaise with DMBC and submit application

ii. Heritage Garden

Sarah and Don have completed the draft for the board and it has gone back to Andy for proofing. It will be 6' x 3' showing a time line of the development of the park. It will be positioned to replace the old rules notice board which will be moved to the other side of the park, to replace the one that was destroyed.

Dave Chadbourne has agreed to move the board back and put in more paving.

iii. Pongy Corner of the Lake

Don reported that Westmorelands had completed the task, but not, he thought, satisfactorily. The corner, although cleared of surface rubbish, was no better than it was before and the silt was still right up to the surface. Already litter was collecting in the corner in such a manner that it could not be reached from the side to be cleared. He said he did not feel that there had been £1,200 of work completed. Neil M aware of situation.

iv. Fountains on lake

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

Eva reported through Sandra, that there is money available and a fountain could be installed in the near future.

v. Lake edging

No further updates on this yet, although it is believed money is available to complete some repairs.

vi. Garden near toilets

The Topiary figures have been installed, Dave Chadbourne was thanked for doing such a good job, and they have been planted with ivy. Temporary signs have been attached asking people not to climb on them, until the bedding plants can be put in and it actually looks like they're part of a garden.

Sandra asked if it was possible for an outside hosepipe to be installed, if FoSP paid for it – watering the boat garden and rockery was tedious when it had to be carried from the lake. Neil M suggested a standpipe situation. Options to be looked at.

ACTION: Sandra to look at possibilities for water supply

b. Toilets

Sandra said we still need to discuss opening times, but as the situation with DMBC staff is uncertain at this time, the subject will remain on the agenda. To be discussed when it is known what is happening with staffing levels and deployment.

3(iii) Angling Club

Although no angling club present, we are aware that:

- a. There is still a big problem with foreigners taking, killing and stealing the fish. Pc Hughes aware and will liaise with Lucan.
- b. There was a problem with extra litter during the school holidays.
- c. There are now 4 bailiffs patrolling the lake.
- d. Neil M said that the angling club need to be made aware that the lake remains the property of the DMBC, and any incidents noted re violation of fishing rules should be reported to them.

3(iv) Communications

- a. Sandra and Don attended Perry's for a photo shoot regarding the car stickers – an article was put in the Free Press without a photo. A cheque was received from Perry's for the stickers.
- b. News of the Queen's Award has prompted a dramatic increase in visits to the web site.

3(v) Funding

a. Funding

- i. £32 was raised by Ron & Jean selling money boxes at the Big Lunch event. £35 was donated by the Baked Potato stall at the Fakefest.

b. Treasurer's Report

Received, and Neil G outlined the procedure for future reports to be sent to the Charities Commission.

3(vi) Events

a. Fake Festival

Was a huge success. A donation will be made by FakeFestivals to pay for the Heritage Garden.

b. The Big Lunch

Was well attended – and thanks to Neil M, Chris Yates and Fay Larkin for all their hard work in organising events. Ron & Jean did a roaring trade in money boxes. Sandra suggested combining the Big Lunch and Proms in the Park for the 3rd June 2012 as there were already arrangements being made centrally for this to be a national event (for the Diamond Jubilee) and a long bank holiday weekend. Ron has already checked and the DCB are willing.

c. Music in the Park 2011

Arrangements are all in hand.

d. Brass Band Bash

SNT have arrangements in hand for chairs and toilets. Don will liaise with them re storage etc.

e. Queen's Award and Garden Party

Sandra has to arrange a date for the Lord Lieutenant to present the awards to us - to coincide when Eva is available as Civic Mayor. Eva has arranged that we should be presented at the Mansion House at a Civic Reception – which is a fitting venue for such a prestigious award. Sandra suggested that it could be 20th July (the date set for the next meeting) as most people would have this in their diaries and be available anyway. Agreed – 20th July should be requested if possible.

- f. Celebration Evening – for Queen’s Award
Don and Sandra are hosting an informal celebration evening at Club 39 for members of the group, supporters and sponsors. This will be on 14th July.
- g. Tombola
Jean said she and Ron would sort the tombola if others helped. Agreed that it should be for one day only – bank holiday Monday. Jean was thanked for taking it on.
- h. Doncaster in Bloom
The application has been submitted and we are now registered for this year’s event.
- i. DCB Concert (September)
Neil M arranging all the equipment. It will be a 3pm start. This is to coincide with the start of the Leger Festival. FoSP will provide the advertising leaflets for this event.
- j. Care to Run (September)
Nothing new to report.
- k. Race night (September)
Sponsors required for the races.

4. Any Other Business

- a. Sarah said that Gateway Centre had been to the park collecting rubbish every Wednesday. All the cans they had collected had been recycled and the money raised donated to the Riding for Disabled group at Mexborough. They are to be congratulated on their efforts.
- b. Neil M said that a company were hoping to move into the empty Millers warehouse. They have agreed to purchase some new trees which Neil requested be planted in Sandall Park.
- c. Don said we had again encountered a problem with planning department about the siting of banners on the railings. It is getting tedious but we have complied with the demands, albeit others are flouting the same rules that we are supposedly flouting and theirs remain in situ.
- d. Carlyne complained that anglers were urinating in full public view without making any attempt to cover themselves and she was appalled. The issue to be raised with angling club. This was early evening – 8pm - when families were in the park.
- e. Moira reported that a fire had been deliberately started in the hedge next to the houses in the park. She had extinguished the fire, made enquiries and got a name for the culprit. This had been passed to the police for action.
- f. Derrick and Sarah will be representing the group at the Keepmoat for the Environment Awards on 16th June.
- g. Neil G gave details of possible further financial help from Lloyds TSB Foundations for our projects.

5. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 20th July 2011, 7pm (though this may be changed to be the award presentation night)