

**Friends of Sandall Park**  
**Minutes of Special General Meeting<sup>1</sup>**  
**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011**  
**(Sandalwood Centre)**

**Apologies:** D & M Ward, L & L Handley, N & W Gethin

**Present:** D & S Crabtree, C & C Burton, M Smith, N Marshall, R & J Ketley, E Hughes, D Bewell, M Hood, L Nokes, S Stokes, M Downing, J & J Middleton  
John and Jenny Middleton were welcomed to the meeting. John is the Tutor and team leader of the ILM team currently working in the park.

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

**2. Matters arising from previous minutes**

- i. The 'pongy corner' of the lake – Neil, Sandra & Don are to have a site meeting to discuss the options with Dave Snell and others, as agreed with the councillors.
- ii. The Sensory Garden – Neil attended a meeting to see if it will be sited at Sandall Beat or Sandall Park, and Sandall Beat was chosen as the preferred option.
- iii. Mansell Challenge – Mansell builders had offered their services to complete a project in a weekend for voluntary groups. We applied but the project chosen was to be Edlington.

**3. Business Plan**

Don said that the Business Plan would be changed to cater for all the completed projects and the new projects that will need inserting.

**3(i) Crime**  
Nothing to report.

**3(ii) Park Development**

a. Boat House Area

160 tons of rubble was removed. The project was delayed temporarily whilst the ground was frozen and although boggy at the moment, is waiting for turf to be ordered. Possible solutions to the boggy ground was the planting of trees, raising the level of the ground, or any other suggestions that might come forward. It was decided that we would see how it dried out over the coming months before making a decision – it has been unnaturally wet over the winter.

b. Future Projects

Sandra outlined a series of projects that she would like to see completed as part of the Business Plan *over the next five years*, and asked for members of the group to consider these and other possible projects. These are:

- i. Obstacle Course: This has now been renamed Adventure Trail and enquiries are ongoing with Paul Telfer as to the viability and cost.  
*Owner: Sandra*
- ii. Further development of the Playbuilder area with equipment specific to disabled children.  
*Owner: Vacant at this time though Sandra has been making enquiries*
- iii. Tree Planting: 50 saplings have been received from the Woodland Trust via BTCV and Carol is overseeing the planting of these with the help of other volunteers.  
*Owner: Carol*

- iv. Boat Planter: Don suggested acquiring a derelict boat, siting it in the triangular garden adjacent to the cafe and planting it up. To be complemented by a new notice board

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

depicting the history of the park. Debbie has a source for a boat. Carol and Jean said they'd oversee the project and approach local businesses for sponsorship of a notice board. Mairaid to help with the planting. Carol, Jean and Mairaid to maintain in future.

*Owner: Carol, Jean*

- v. Trim Trail on golf course: Source funding and have a path installed around the circumference of the golf course suitable for wheelchairs. Sandra is already liaising with Dave Snell as to costs and viability, and has a source for a funding application.

*Owner: Sandra*

- vi. Lake Edging: Continue with the campaign to have the lake edging repaired.

*Owner: Don*

- vii. Fountains in Lake: Source funding and have fountains installed in main lake.

*Owner: Vacant at this time*

- viii. Research History of Park: Either apply for funding for a research student to conduct the research, or do the research personally. To be of benefit in filling in the blanks in the history of the park, and providing the evidence of heritage to open up the doors for heritage lottery funding. Information also to go on notice board at entrance to park. Debbie has made some enquiries already, and there is some information on the web site.

*Owner: Sarah*

### **3(iii) Angling Club**

- i. Lucan sent a report from the Angling Club which was read out to the group.
- ii. Since their inception in September 2010 they have filled their membership book - capping it at 26.
- iii. They have 3 bailiffs with a view to having another in the spring.
- iv. They have done a substantial amount of rubbish clearing and 'policing' of the lake through the winter period and things look positive for the group.
- v. They have worked closely with FoSP to bring about positive changes to angling and the perception of angling in the park.

### **3(iv) Communications**

- i. 72,000 visits were made to the web site during the year 2010. An incredible amount, and not including all the visits to the Facebook site.
- ii. Don and Sandra had held a meeting with Joy at the café about letting us put our notices up and leaflets on the desk. Since they've had it decorated they'd removed all such items. Agreed that we could continue though it wouldn't be open to others.

### **3(v) Funding**

- i. £500 match funding has been received from Lloyds TSB Foundations.
- ii. The lottery income was £26.40
- iii. Treasurers Report was read out to the group in Neil's absence.  
Neil made a referral in his report about the loan to Anglers of Sandall Park of the premium for their insurance, and that it should now become a donation rather than a loan. This was discussed by the group and whilst the group were pleased with the way the angling club had progressed, cleaned up the lake and supported the FoSP - the best way to do business was to make a decision when the angling group have been in existence a year. We would then know that they were sustainable as a group and working towards the agreed agenda and their lease agreement. All agreed – decision to be taken in September as to whether we write off the loan.
- iv. Treasurers report was made available to all the group by email or hard copy if required.

### **3(vi) Events**

- a. Cultural Event  
This did not take place through lack of funding and it is not known if it will be rearranged.
- b. Free Press/DMBC Pride in Doncaster Awards  
Sarah, Don and Sandra attended the presentation evening and were pleased to accept the winner's award on behalf of FoSP, for the Pride in Doncaster Awards.
- c. Doncaster in Bloom

Sarah, Don and Sandra attended the Keepmoat for the presentation and received a Silver Gilt award for the group.

- d. Santa Dash  
Was rearranged at short notice due to the depth of ice on the footpaths which would have been impossible to clear, for the week following the advertised date. Around 100 Santa's turned out on a day that saw the temperature plummet to -7c. A good fun day that raised funds for the Aurora Centre. Thank you to all the marshalls that turned out to make the day a success, and of course the other helpers such as Nick and Jason from Ready Steady Store and Neil and John from SNT.
- e. Quiz Night  
Tickets currently stand at 70 and are going well.
- f. Walking Festival  
Reminder - 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in Sandall Park
- g. Fake Festival  
Tickets sales are already good for the event on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011
- h. Music in the Park 2011  
Nothing additional to report at this time.
- i. Queens Award for Voluntary Services  
Members of the group attended the park to speak with a representative from the Lord Lieutenants Office, and took a tour of the park. A report has been submitted by her to a higher panel for consideration.
- j. OPAL Survey  
To be conducted in the hedgerows in the spring – when there's something in the hedgerows.

**4. Any Other Business**

- a. Don asked about the rubbish bins next to the bog pond. We'd wanted the one under water removing to another location, but the one between the seats had been taken out. Neil to provide another bin and the ILM team will re-site the one under water.
- b. Sarah informed the group that the Gateway school were doing litter picking in the park on a weekly basis and playing football afterwards. Sarah has been the liaison for this project, and the school are borrowing our litter pickers.
- c. Marianne was pleased to announce that she'd been for a walk round the park with her son at the weekend and had seen no litter in the park.
- d. Carol asked if anyone had seen 4 black swans recently, she had only seen 3. No-one had.
- e. Eva invited everyone to a coffee morning for Aurora, 16<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Mansion House.
- f. John Middleton pointed out that funding for the ILM will finish in March. He was concerned that the park needed a permanent presence to maintain its standards.
- g. Neil Marshall wanted to organise a World championships in Sandall Park but it needed to be something different. He opened it up to the group for suggestions.
- h. Neil M pointed out that a reparation scheme for offenders – youngsters caught dropping litter – was doing litter picks in the park for 3 hours as opposed to offenders receiving a fine. All agreed what a great idea this was.

**5. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011, M Smith to take the Chair.**