

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 15th April 2009
(Sandalwood Centre)

Apologies: E & D Hughes, S Coddington, J Hall, B Darrand. N Marshall, K Goodman, B Boughen
M Smith

Present: R & J Ketley, S & D Crabtree, N & W Gethin, M Hood, C & C Burton, M Hood, D
Ward, L Nokes

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising

None.

3. Business Plan

3(i). Crime

- a The notice board had been ripped from the wall of the toilet block and damaged beyond repair. Don has put up one of the recycled ones. This was reported to the police.
- b Motor cycles have been riding through the park at a fast pace. Reported to SNT via DMBC control.

3(ii) Park Development

a. Toilets

Mr Pat Higgs responded to the letter Rosie Winterton had written in response to Dons letter to her, and requested a meeting. Don, Sandra and Neil M met with Pat in the park. He had no instant answers but assured us that enquiries would continue into how the toilets could be funded. Additional staffing levels were to be looked at.

b. Golf Course

Sandra had received a phone call today stating that we had been successful with the grant. There were some additional conditions, which were easily achievable, one of which was the engagement of a surveyor to sign off the project on its completion – to be funded by the grant. The money will be paid into the FOSP account with Neil G, Ron and Sandra being the signatories for the cheques as per normal.

c. Parks for People

(i) Don read out key points from an email from Jane Miller to Eva Hughes which she had kindly forwarded for our information prior to the meeting. The information Ms Miller had been supplied with was incorrect in several instances:

- 1. She stated that DMBC would have to provide 25% match funding – this is only the case with claims over £1 million, less than that it is 10% and it can be in-kind contributions.

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

2. Sandall Park needs to be a heritage site – it does not, it only needs to have evidence of heritage.

3. It needs to be a Green Flag site for 7 years, it only needs to be 5 years. (In fact Sandra put forward the idea of applying for Green Flag status, but as the council has to take the lead we were turned down – Sandall Beat Wood and Cusworth Park were already going through the process).

It was clear from the tone of the email that Sandall Park were not supported in this endeavour and without the enthusiasm of someone high up in the council, it was pointless pursuing it. Matter dismissed. Thanks to Eva for pursuing it thus far.

(ii) As it had been planned to include repairs to the lake edge in the Parks for People application, concerns were raised as to how this was going to be tackled, as DMBC has no strategy or plan for Sandall Park. Alternative funding sources will have to be looked at. *Item for agenda.*

3(iv) Angling Club

Nothing to report.

3(vi) Communications

a. Web Site

Has had over 1,000 visits to date.

Someone has been using photos from the web site and putting them on YouTube which is good publicity for us.

b. Noticeboards

Continue to be a source of information for people and have brought several telephone enquiries to the group. Often there is a queue of people waiting to read the boards.

c. Networking

Don and Sandra attended a committee meeting of Friends of Askern Lake and shared information and experiences. Some good contacts were made and several follow up meetings ensued.

While in the park Don spoke with a park visitor Derrick Bewell who has now volunteered to be the group's official photographer. Several examples of his work can be seen on the web site and in the notice boards.

3(vii) Funding/Events

a. Fakefest

Tickets are going well and all arrangements are in hand.

b. Care to Run

The date had to revert to 6th September as the circus is in the park on 13th. Volunteers required please for marshalling. Don and Sandra are to meet with Aurora organisers to firm up plans.

c. Race Night

Neil G has arrangements in hand for 9th October, tickets to be £2. It was suggested and agreed that we give Friends of Sandall Beat 25 tickets and for them to keep the proceeds of their ticket sales (£50 if they sell all).

d. Funding/Treasurers Report

Neil G gave an updated report which was received and approved. He said that the accounts submitted to the Charities Commission had been approved.

d. Doncaster in Bloom

Don has volunteered to progress our application for this year.

4. **Any Other Business**

- a. Carol had suggested to Sandra that Aubretia planted along the rockery near to the toilets would look nice and Sandra had requested that she purchase some and do the planting. Thanks to Carol, Carolyne and Graham for planting the whole area. Unfortunately, someone had seen fit to come later in the day and steal some – as a result they were all covered in dirt to give them a fighting chance of surviving until next year's growing season. A suspect was identified but no evidence for further action. This has been officially reported to the police as a crime.
- b. Don asked for any volunteers who could be available for the forthcoming Saturday to trim some lower branches from trees in a copse where a 'drinks den' was causing problems. The debris from along the fence line left by the felling of the conifers had been cleared in the previous weeks.
- c. Neil G asked when a rounder's match was going to be arranged, and suggested a pitch be marked out on the ground. Don said he'd try and work a date out, and added that a proper sized pitch is actually quite large.
- d. Neil G pointed out that the old changing rooms were now in a bad state of repair and being vandalised on a regular basis. *Item for next agenda*
- e. The grating on the spring drain is blocked and needs cleaning out again. SNT to be requested to sort.
- f. Moira advised the group that there would be a PACT meeting next Thursday.

9. **Date of next meeting:**

Wednesday 20th May 7pm