

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 17th June 2009
(Sandalwood Centre)

Apologies: D & E Hughes, S Coddington, J Hall, B Darrand, C & C Burton, R Dove, R & J Ketley

Present: S & D Crabtree, N & W Gethin, M Hood, D Ward, L Nokes, B Boughen, M Smith, D Bewell, N Marshall, A Fox

Chair welcomed Allison Fox, Biomass Facilitator

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and agreed.

2. Matters arising

- i. Lisa has the rounders pitch marking in hand, agreed that it would be a junior size.
- ii. Re shopping bags for printing our logo: Debbie reported that she may be able to source some from Resource Recovery at DMBC. Allison indicated another source which Lisa said she would follow up.
- iii. Barrie had been looking into the printed chocolate bar wrappers. He produced one with the FOSP logo which looked extremely impressive. The group discussed ways of how this could be used and marketed. There was a definite use for them, it was just a case of deciding how best to utilise the promotional material.

3. Business Plan

3(i). Crime

- a Ducks and swans (2 adults and one young cygnet) have died in the last month. Discussed at length as to the possible causes. SNT and police are aware.
- b Debbie and a PCSO had been in the park in the early hours; dog owners had been issued with Fixed Penalty Tickets for dog fouling. Patrols are to be continued along this vein.
- c Don has spoken to several people about keeping dogs on lead – they were chasing ducks at the time.
- d 3 picnic benches have been damaged in the last month and repainted, all crimed. One girl has been identified at Danum School and will be spoken to by the school police officer.

3(ii) Park Development

a. Toilets

Lisa said that a lockable room was now required for the gardener, who has taken on the role of toilet maintenance. It was proposed to utilise the baby changing facility for this purpose, unless there was evidence of use. It was noted that no-one had been seen to use the facility in all the time it had been open. Agreed to change the use.

b. Golf Course

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

The project is well ahead of schedule, thanks to all the DMBC teams involved. The fitness equipment had been installed 1/6/09; the concrete bases for the picnic benches were in and the bins had been installed.

Kingfisher school pupils attended with Carol, Sandra and Don on June 4th and planted the bulbs.

Wild flower plugs provided by Pleveys were planted (this aspect had been deferred until Autumn but the plants became available and so the opportunity was taken to plant).

The target date for the official opening of the fitness area is 6th Sept, on the day of the Care to Run. Caroline Hodgson to be asked to perform the opening. Sandra has been in contact with two of the Fake Faces – Pavarotti and Mr Bean, and they are to attend and add sparkle to the event. They have very generously agreed to do it for free, if petrol money of £40 is reimbursed.

Agreed to this cost being reimbursed.

Don said he was aware that a local resident had made an adverse comment about the positioning of the fitness equipment. Don said he actually invited the resident across at the planning stage and explained what was happening. He did not like the position but had it explained to him exactly why that position was needed. Later when funding was obtained Don informed him that the project was going ahead and no adverse comment was made then.

c. Changing Rooms

Allison Fox addressed the meeting and informed the group of plans to renovate the depot area, including building in space for FOSP use. This was purely a consultation phase and no firm decisions have been made yet. Discussions took place as to possible uses, including office/meeting room space and sports changing rooms. Further consultations to follow.

d. Lake Edging

No progress. No funding streams identified at this time. Neil M said that the new NH Manager, Rachel Blake was keen to support the group's endeavours and would be appointing an Activity Engagement Officer who would have command of a Working Neighbourhoods Fund and who would work with us in the future to further our aims of improving the park.

3(iv) Angling Club

- a. The club had cleaned up round the lake again
- b. An open match had been held the previous Sunday but was attended mostly by club members as opposed to visitors.
- c. Barrie felt that some of the reports of abandoned line could have perhaps been exaggerated mischievously as the club and bailiffs regularly patrolled and found no evidence of abandoned lines or hooks. They had checked the cygnet with the reported hook in its mouth and hadn't found one, though it was suggested that it was an angler that had removed it.
- d. The club were thanked for their efforts in keeping the lake litter free.

3(vi) Communications

- a. Don came up with the idea of having a banner that could be displayed at events that would advertise our stand/stall. A visit to Bristol Street Motor Nations on Thorne Road produced a flag pole, very kindly donated. Another visit, after much searching around, to Insignia at Carcroft produced a very reasonably priced banner for the flag pole. Another means of projecting our image.
- b. Taken from a gardening magazine – requests for participation in a national worm survey. Sandra conducted one on the day of the bulb planting, and the sample surveyed produced – zilch worms! The children did find some at a later stage, but not in the control sample. We are now registered on the Open

Air Laboratory (OPAL) survey. The children thought it was great and each went away with their own survey pack, along with some FOSP goodies.

- c. Web Site
Continues to be one of our major successes, and is updated daily. Updates are put on the notice boards weekly.

3(vii) Funding/Events

- a. Fakefest
Was a huge success and was well attended. No bad reports have been received, only good. DMBC and the Environment Agency both did noise level tests outside the area and confirmed the music was within legal sound levels. A date has been pencilled in for next year's event – 29th May 2010.
- b. Care to Run
No further update at this time.
- c. Race Night
Sponsors are required for 8 races, £25 a race. SNT were asked if they would sponsor one again and agreed. Don and Sandra to sponsor a race.
- e. Funding
 - i. Don, Sandra & Carol attended a Heritage Lottery Fund road-show at Askern. Enquiries were made about Parks for People but the answer was the same – support is needed from the council. It was identified that we need to research the heritage of the park to support any application. Allison gave an insight into the history that she had discovered whilst researching the park for the depot project (plans and minutes from DMBC meetings in 1934) – information that had not been discovered when Don & Sandra looked into it – proving that there is more information out there. Suggested that everyone pool what information they had to build up a bigger picture.
 - ii. Sandra had contacted Warburtons again and they are still looking into sponsoring us for either jackets or T shirts.
- f. Treasurers Report
Neil G presented a current balance sheet.
- e. Doncaster in Bloom
Nothing further to report at this time.

4. Any Other Business

- a. Neil thanked Debbie Ward, this being her last meeting as an SNT officer as she is moving to another area. This was re-iterated by the Chairman. Debbie has worked tirelessly to further the group's aims on behalf of the SNT and in her own time as a volunteer.
- b. Neil G suggested that we invite the new mayor to a meeting. Sandra said she would organise an invitation.
- c. Derrick provided details of the Weather Lottery seminar he'd attended.
- d. Lisa and Neil outlined some consultation dates for the new Playbuilder play equipment that is due to go into the park. They are Sunday 5th July in the park between 12pm – 4pm and during the following week 3 – 6pm. A suggested area was the dell as it incorporates trees and rocks, though there were some concerns as to whether it would be out of sight and prone to vandalism. Everyone encouraged to go along to the consultation days and voice opinions.

5. Date of next meeting:

15th July 7pm