

Friends of Sandall Park
Minutes of Special General Meeting¹
Wednesday 7th December 2016
Sandalwood Communal Hall

Present: R & J Ketley, N Gethin, S & D Crabtree, M Smith, L Jones, Carol Burton, E Hughes, C Pugh, K Ismay-Johnston, M Keegan, B Senior, W Barclay, S Holland

Apologies: D Bewell, M Downing, S Stokes, Carolyne Burton, Lee Stanley-Gonsales, N Marshall

Chair asked the group to thank the 'Toilet Team' for all their efforts in keeping the toilets pristine throughout the year, and presented Les, Wendy, Carol, Ron and Jean with a gift of thanks.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

- (i) Gabions – Neil M had sent an email requesting an update on the situation but no result as yet.
- (ii) Sandra has been liaising with the Civic Trust who are to donate 10 x 3m high trees for the park, which will be planted by Pleveys. Some will go on the golf course and some near the play area and bog pond.
- (iii) The toilets were closed at the end of October but due to complaints sent in, negotiations took place and they were re-opened shortly afterwards. The same routine will take place with the exception that Carol can no longer contribute towards the cleaning. Michaela is to be congratulated on her flexibility in responding to public demand and changing the system to keep the toilets open.
- (iv) A request for the fence on Thorne Road to be mended was submitted by Eva and they have been carried out.

3(i) Crime

- a. Someone has been kicking the 2nd toilet door in the gents, damaging the locks though stealing nothing. It is believed to be a protest at the toilets being locked. It has always happened on a Monday morning, and attention was given the previous two Mondays by volunteers without result.

3(ii) Park Development

- a. Maintenance Plan
 - (i) Everything is running smoothly. The toilets are being cleaned and checked on a daily basis and can be considered a great asset for the park. Thanks to the Toilet Team again for their commitment.
 - (ii) The Fitness Trails will be re-marked out in Spring.
 - (iii) Les has been too busy to do the willow tunnel but will tackle it in Spring, Wendy will assist.

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

- b. Projects
- (i) Tesco Fund - the fitness equipment was installed, needed work doing and one piece taken away for repair, this is now back and the invoice is due for payment.
- (ii) Another Tesco application has been submitted for a swing that is suitable for Disabled children. The system has now changed so that funding applications will be considered each month, though groups can't apply on consecutive months.
- (iii) The Woodland Adventure Play - WREN have agreed to the funding and we now have to send in the £4,587 contribution. We are still waiting for decisions to be made by Planning Dept as to what is suitable – though the equipment quoted for should not require planning permission - as advised by the suppliers.
- (iv) Defibrillator/Emergency Access: The defibrillator was installed – thanks to DMBC for a prompt response to installation and wiring it up to the electrics. There were some initial issues with it being taken from it's housing to the site of events but this has now been resolved and it remains in its housing. The emergency access for emergency services will be publicised as the Barnby Dun Road entrance next to the playground and has a combination padlock on, which the services have been made aware of.
- (v) CPR training can now take place as we have received a CPR kit from the British Heart Foundation. It comes with a training DVD which parkrun have already used to train people..
- (vi) Don, Sandra, & Kristen have been having regular meetings with Neil Marshall and Ben Russell working towards applying for the Green Flag Award.

3(iii) Angling Club

- a. Funding has been found for the fountain. Scott has found a good source and has been able to get two for the price of one, one being an aerator.
- b. Scott said that he'd found another way to clear pongy corner, which Col has researched in depth. It entails using a product called Siltex which breaks down the bacterial growth and is a recognised way of dealing with silt. DMBC to be consulted regarding this proposition.
ACTION: Scott to liaise with DMBC
- c. Children's angling sessions are to be delayed until warmer weather.
- d. Further planting has taken place near to the old boat house.
- e. Greggs fund was declined but there is an option to go for another Tesco fund in January.
- f. Lee and Scott attended Doncaster in Bloom and came away with a Silver Award. They gleaned some good ideas which they will work on for next year's awards.
- g. The Bread Campaign has gathered momentum and not only been reported locally, including radio interviews and press coverage, it has been taken up by other groups, and made the national newspapers. Seed has been given out to a large number of people and bread deposits have definitely been reduced.
- h. Lee and Scott are intending to travel to Dover to collect some new stocks of fish on Saturday.
- i. There are a lot of people wishing to join the Angling Club at the moment and there is now a waiting list.

3(iv) Football Club

- a. The FoSP sponsored shirts have arrived and Dave Garbutt was supposed to send us photos of the team wearing them. Mike said he'd asked him several times. Apologies were given, it's intended to get one on Sunday
- b. Mike said that issues with the football club have been resolved and he will now be staying at Sandall Park.
- c. Funding is a priority so if anyone knows of any grants available please let him know.
- d. There will be another team of Under 7's starting in January. Another pitch will be required.
- e. Lee has been tied up with work and hasn't been able to sort the Santa Dash entries but hopes to do so this week.

3(v) Communications

- a. The next DGSN meeting is on 14th December where the Tesco Bags of Help Grant will no doubt be discussed – it is for the purchase of Superbins for participating groups.
- b. The CVS AGM was attended by Don & Sandra. It's the last meeting as it has to close in March 2017 due to a lack of funding. The parkrun were successful in winning the CVS Community Group Award which they are to be congratulated on.
- c. Don & Sandra attended a Health/Partnerships conference on Monday. Mention was made of engaging voluntary groups and the question was asked from the floor "So why is CVS being closed down".
- d. The notice boards haven't been updated for a while but will be done after the Santa Dash.
- e. Indizine, who remodelled the FoSP web page, will do a Santa Dash web page for next year's event – free of charge. It will mean Don can input more onto the site than is currently possible.
- f. Corporate Christmas cards were ordered but didn't arrive. Vistaprint were notified and refunded the money via PayPal, but then as a gesture of good faith sent another consignment of cards free of charge.
- g. Calendars were not purchased this year as a lot of the funds have been used for part payment for the play equipment and keeping the toilets open.

3(vi) Funding

- a (i) 100 Club draw took place at the meeting and the winners for November were M Frost; S Crabtree; D Crabtree. The December draw winners were S Crabtree; N Gethin; M Hood.
- (ii) £216 has been received from Lloyds for Neil G's volunteering time with the group.
- b. Treasurer's Report
 - (i) The treasurer's report stated that the balance is still healthy though there is a lot that will be going out - funds for the two major projects of the Fitness Equipment and the Adventure Play.
 - (ii) Neil suggested that Kristen should now be installed as a signatory so the cheque account could be transferred in readiness for the AGM. All agreed. Neil G proposed Kristen be co-opted as a Trustee, seconded by Sandra and all agreed.

3(vii) Events

- a. Santa Dash:
Don read out the operational order; there will also be a competition for the Marshals best outfit.
All arrangements are in hand. The event is now fully funded again. St Leger Rotary Club have come up trumps in organising the event this year and have worked really hard.
- b. Christmas Meeting:
Meal list circulated, all arrangements in hand.

3. Any Other Business

- a. Don said the café plan was progressing: surveys have been conducted on the trees and a topographical survey. There may be a traffic survey required.
- b. Don pointed out to the group that Friends of Graves Park in Sheffield are having a campaign to block the council selling off parts of it for housing developments. It's something we always have to bear in mind as to what's happening nationwide with regards to parks and green spaces.
- c. Mike suggested getting funding for the toilets – get a company to sponsor them?
- d. Scott said that the rat infestation has increased and the night anglers were overrun with them.
ACTION: Sandra to contact Customer Services
- e. Sandra suggested a first scheduled training session will be at the close of the meeting on 18th January. Agreed.
- f. Don said the café was progressing, albeit slowly. Surveys had been done of the trees. Discussions are ongoing with Planning Dept.

Meeting concluded 8.23pm.

- 5. Date of next meeting: Christmas Meeting 7pm Wednesday 14^h December
Next meeting: AGM Wednesday 18th January followed by normal meeting and CPR training with the BHF CPR kit.