

**Friends of Sandall Park**  
**Minutes of Special General Meeting<sup>1</sup>**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017**  
**Sandalwood Communal Hall**

**Present:** S & D Crabtree, R & J Ketley, N Gethin, L Jones, Carol Burton, C Pugh, M Keegan, W Barclay, S Holland, F Woolley

**Apologies:** D Bewell, M Downing, S Stokes, , E Hughes, B Senior, N Marshall, Carolyne Burton

**1. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

**2. Matters arising from previous minutes**

- (i) Rat infestation: 3 new bait bins have been ordered and were supposed to have been installed, apologies have been received for the delay, they should go in soon.
- (ii) Quad bikes remain a problem. There has been no operation to target them as yet.
- (iii) Cycleway: work is currently underway and should be completed in the next two weeks with the park fence being restored.
- (iv) Les reported that the broken fence into the depot has been repaired so access cannot now be gained.
- (v) Chippings have been delivered and are in use around the park. Thanks to the Tree Team.

**3(i) Crime**

- a. None to report
- b. Death in the park: (though not a crime) The relatives of the man – Eric Buxton – who died in the toilet block have been in touch and thanked us for our concern and help in dealing with the situation.

**3(ii) Park Development**

- a. Maintenance Plan
  - (i) Everything is running smoothly. Wendy and Alex had done some work on the willow arch but more needs to be done.
  - (ii) Don said we now need to start tackling some of the smaller tasks that currently let the park down, like the sensory trail boards legs which require painting.
  - (iii) Sandra said she'd requested some of the dead trees be dealt with, a few Silver Birch are needing attention.
  - (iv) Scott said he'd been approached by a man who works for the National Trust and who offered to do some willow weaving along the fence line of the North Bank. Agreed this would really enhance the area. To be confirmed with DMBC.

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

- b. Projects
- (i) Tesco Fund – FoSP currently have the lead in the Edenthorpe store but not known how we are faring at Tesco Extra. Result in March.
- (ii) The Woodland Adventure Play: After even more delays, the project has now been submitted for planning permission and there should be some development soon, it has been agreed at the original price.
- (iii) The Green Flag Award application has been submitted. Thanks to Ben Russell and Neil Marshall for all their hard work.
- (iv) Proposed Project: Les had mooted the idea of a bridge over the lake from the peninsula towards the bus shelter area. Much discussion ensued but all agreed it would enhance the park for the visitor experience. A more detailed plan to be put together so that the anglers can be sure of what would be affected, as Lee wasn't in agreement, and an approach to be made to DMBC and the landscape architects to seek their views.

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

- a. Fountain: Awaiting the funding to be released.
- b. The Lake Edging project is moving forward, there is to be a meeting next week and everything looks positive.
- c. The Siltex aspect is included in the above project and is awaiting funding
- d. A discussion ensued re repairs to gabions.
- e. A 24 hour angling match to be held 4<sup>th</sup> March to raise funds for the work they are undertaking.

### **3(iv) Football Club**

- a. Apologies from Lee, the new chairman of the club, who can't attend tonight. Mike informed the group that he is now the Secretary having taken over from Dave.
- b. Sponsors logos are now on display on the wall in the cabin.
- c. Photo of team with FoSP sponsored shirts will be sent soon.
- d. Col & Scott were thanked for their tremendous help with sorting the mud problem in front of the cabin. It is planned to put woodchip down and this has been discussed with Ben Russell. Photos were circulated of proposed plans
- e. They are wanting to extend the fence at the rear of the cabin to accommodate the goal posts. Permission to be sought from DMBC.
- f. Information was given of a proposed tournament and volunteers were requested to help.
- g. A further request was made for financial assistance, particularly in relation to funding coaching courses for referees. The group agreed to fund the cost of two referees courses.

### **3(v) Communications**

- a. NFPGS AGM Birmingham meeting. Don and Sandra attended and gleaned information about what was happening to parks nationwide. The forum is looking to have Regional groups and for a Regional representative to attend meetings rather than smaller groups. The whole structure of the Forum is changing.
- b. A House of Commons document relating to the State of Public Parks has been published and has sparked debate. A response is to be issued in due course. Don gave a précis of what can be expected.

- (i) One of the issues mentioned, which Don has been saying for some time, is that there should be an elected member on each council with a specific remit for parks and green spaces – a Champion with an interest in the subject. There is no such elected member on Doncaster Council.
- (ii) Don had been contacted by Keep Britain Tidy asking if he'd go on breakfast news. The offer was declined as it would have meant driving to Manchester at 4am and snow was forecast. An opportunity missed with hindsight but it was short notice and a big ask.
- c. A letter from Queen's Lady in Waiting was read to the group, thanking us for her Christmas card.

### **3(vi) Funding**

- a (i) 100 Club draw took place at the meeting and the winners were 15, M Barclay, 38 D Crabtree; 34 M Frost.
- b. Treasurer's Report
- (i) The treasurer's report stated that the balance is still healthy.

### **3(vii) Events**

- a. Easter Activities: Eggs have been purchased. Wendy has been in touch with Tesco Extra and they are going to provide some Easter Eggs for the tombola. Easter Activity sheets were shown to the group.
- b. Great British Spring Clean: 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> March. DWP are coming on the Friday, Wendy to supervise, and Costa Coffee on the Sunday. Don and Sandra will be attending that day.
- c. Disabled Access Day(s) 10 – 12<sup>th</sup> March. Nothing to be done for this, just advertising the fact that we have the Sensory Trail and other facilities that people could access.
- d. Party in the Park 20<sup>th</sup> May: About 90 stalls have so far signed up so it's going to be a big event.
- e. Eid in the park 1<sup>st</sup> July: no further news on this but arrangements are in hand.

### **4. Any Other Business**

- a. Beanie hats with FoSP logo have been purchased. Agreed regular volunteers should receive a free one – anglers were given a beanie hat. Rest to be sold.
- b. Scott – hi viz needed for night patrols. The angling club have decided to have a high visibility presence during the night and will patrol with the hi-viz's on. FoSP kit to be issued.
- c. Wendy will be entering Doncaster in Bloom, as will the angling club.
- d. Mike asked if we could provide volunteers for the football tournament in June. Last year mistakes had been made – an elderly person left his post in charge of the car park and an accident occurred. More volunteers are needed to prevent a repeat.
- e. Les asked if we'd ever had a meet and greet day, so that FoSP'ers are available to speak to park visitors. Agreed to consider it for a day in the summer.
- f. Wendy said a bin had disappeared from behind the toilets. Enquiries to be made.
- g. Mike asked if FoSP could consider making another donation to the Football Club. They are wanting to send two people on a referees course at a cost of £150 each. Group agreed to fund this, once ratified with Treasurer.

- h. Wendy and Les both reported that an Asian man, not sure which of the two regulars it was, was seen to dump a full carrier bag of bread into the lake today. He wasn't feeding the ducks, just dumping bread. Agreed that if seen, any such people should have their vehicle registration numbers noted and reported to the Enforcement Team as a littering offence.
- i. Wendy said she'd received an invitation to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace as a thank you for all her volunteering work. She'd been nominated by Ros Jones and Jo Miller.
- j. The question was asked if we would be having another Music in the Park event this year and the decision was taken that we wouldn't.

Meeting concluded 8.28pm.

5. **Date of next meeting** 7pm Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March