

Friends of Stables Lane (FOSL) Working Group - Minutes

Meeting 7pm Tuesday June 14th 2022, Committee room, Boston Spa Village Hall

Attendance

Sara King	Yes	Andy Colledge	Yes
Kevin Alderson	Yes	Keith Jackson	No
Scott Courts	No	Alasdair Rattray	Yes
Lynn Beckwith	Yes	John Backhouse	Yes

Minutes

1. Introductions

1.1 Sara King (from the PC) has now taken over as chair to allow Kevin Alderson to focus more on the fund raising side of things. Ellen Cameron has now left the group due to moving out of the area.

2. Any comments from the public – (maximum 30 minutes) – No public present

3. Chairman's report on previous Parish Council meeting

3.1 No specific report due to not holding a FOSL meeting for a couple of years and the group needing to have more of a 'refresh' discussion at this point, in order to get an idea of the groups objectives going forward.

4. Sub-group Reports – Again not specifically reported upon this meeting due to having a group 'refresh' but what was discussed outlined below.

4.1 Operations, administration and finance

4.1.2 Carpark and entrance to the park

4.1.3 The state of the car park not very good and not a good image for the Park considering how great it is once you get in there. There are severe drainage problems which will cost a significant amount to put right. It was felt that you can't get away from the fact that more people will continue to come by car and parking spaces are wasted by bad and inconsiderate positioning of parked cars by some users of the park, meaning that marked bays are a must and that perhaps the car park may need to encroach on the wildflower meadow to provide more spaces. Once the main car park issues were addressed we could then look at improving the look of the entrance with raised beds and / or a collection/ arrival point further down the line. **Action: SK to report about this at the PC meeting.** *Update: It was generally felt to be necessary and KA will start to look at putting together some definite cost information and look at further funding.*

4.1.4 Pedestrians could do with separate entrance from cars (by removing the 'hedge' next to the gate) and making a path as there are some serious safety issues particularly with children being picked up from the schools surrounding the park by parents and when well attended events are on. Yellow lines around the entrance would also help as you can't see cars coming out of the car park and from the houses further along Stables Lane if cars are parked right up to the entrance. **Action: SK to report on this at the PC meeting.** *Update: Again this was generally felt to be a good idea and we will try to find out who owns the*

'hedge' and /or land that the hedge is on, so that we can perhaps start to proceed with this before or at least for the next meeting.

4.1.5 The ground under the new play equipment was reportedly uneven, although everyone agreed that it was probably due parts of the ground later slumping a bit after all the upheaval of the work done to erect and fix in the play equipment. **Action: KA said he would have a look at it and talk to the supplier about it.**

4.2 Security and vandalism

4.2.1 There was some discussion about security and vandalism. The police had suggested that the Gazebo is in the wrong place eg. where is isn't well lit, but it was felt that moving it wouldn't be an answer at all. **Action: KA has been and will continue to look into the cost of lighting and security cameras as suggested by the Police.** KA had also just met before the meeting with some LCC youth workers who had come to have a look at who was in the park, so it will be interesting to see what more comes of them visiting the area more. Some of the vandalism has included graffiti, damaged fences and tiles ripped off the roof of the Gazebo.

4.3 Maintenance

4.3.1 With reference to the vandalism as stated above and general maintenance perhaps needing doing, it was felt that some repairs could be done by group members and some may need PC approval for. **Action: AC kindly said that he would draw up a maintenance plan for the next meeting so that we can discuss how to take the maintenance forward and get it done.**

4.4 Fundraising and events

4.4.1. This wasn't really discussed as the festival is currently being organised and due to take place in the next few weeks.

4.5. Nature area

4.5.1 The wildflower meadow looked untidy during the last winter. It needs to be managed properly with a cut at the correct time, the cuttings to then be left for a period of time until they dry out and the seeds get dispersed and then to be removed so that it doesn't rot and look too unsightly over the winter and hinder new growth in the spring. It is not officially covered under Sephton Baxter's current maintenance programme. **Action: SK is to ask the PC to have this included the next time it is put out to tender. JB and AC said they could talk to the current contractor (SB) about the best times to cut etc. and perhaps he would either do it anyway or they (or some of the rest of the group) could also help with it.**
Update: It will be added when the contract is up for renewal at the end of March 2023.

4.5.2 As previously mentioned above, it was also suggested that the wildflower meadow could possibly be moved to another part of the park, if it was deemed necessary in the future.

5. Items to go on a future 'wish list' / for future visitation as funds and group members time to action allows

5.1 The sensory garden which a local lady with a disabled child had asked for had, been asked by the PC to submit a proposal. The PC felt that it best to leave this until something is submitted and the group agreed with this at this point.

5.2 It was felt that a sail for the stage would be a nice addition at some point but that the car park situation was more important to spend the money on in the first instance.

5.3 An electrical supply to enable lights for night events or to allow more usage of the park in winter months would be great but again there is a big cost involved and this would be probably more easy to facilitate once the Church Street development was done and perhaps any CIL money was made available.

5.4 Access to the park from Clifford Road via the grounds of St Mary's School would introduce an attractive route from the east to save residents having to walk the long, narrow road to High Street and give them a more peaceful and healthy journey to the village. It was felt that schools participation in this might be difficult to obtain (although not impossible). The current access via a gate in the corner of the allotment area is limited due to being locked at times making it restricted to parents at school times. It was felt from a health and safety point of view a definite well managed public access path would be better, separating the school from the path, perhaps with a secure fence.

5.5 It was agreed that as the FOSL working group, we should be alert to any proposals which are put forward for the Church Street development and make recommendations to the PC to negate any proposals which would be detrimental to the park and access to it etc. **Action: (whole group) this needs to be monitored on an ongoing basis.**

5.6 KJ wasn't at the meeting, but had suggested by email, that we should think about starting a legacy system where residents/friends can leave a legacy for the future development of the park (rather than just seeking grants) which could also help with the leverage of grant funding eg. 50%/50%. It was felt that this was a good idea and could/ should be looked at in the future. This also brought up the question of whether precept money was still being put aside for the Park. **Action: SK to find out.** *Update: Yes it is – it was £15k originally and although it has reduced a bit now, each year a new proportionate amount is still allocated. There is £26500 in the reserve fund and donations made specifically to the Park go straight in there.*

5.7 It was generally felt that a 5 year plan as a follow on from the Phase Two Overview produced back in 2019 by KA and AR might be a good idea. To be revisited hopefully at the next meeting as we ran out of time and need to focus on some of the basic maintenance and other issues outlined above first.

Meeting Closed - 8.30 pm

Next Meeting 7pm Tuesday 13th September, Committee room, Boston Spa Village Hall