

Friends of Stables Lane (FOSL) Working Group - Minutes

Meeting 7pm Tuesday June 6th 2023, Committee Room, Boston Spa Village Hall

Attendance

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

Minutes

1. Comments from the public

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2. Approval of last meetings minutes.

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairman's report

3.1 SK reported that the vandal proof bin had not yet been received due to an extended lead time from the supplier and a bin would be ordered from another company. SK was not sure if this would still be a vandal proof bin. It was decided at the last PC meeting to site it further away from the far gazebo between the gazebo and bench nearer to the play area. Several members expressed a wish to put it back where it was originally or in fact what seemed to be a better idea, right next to the gazebo. The reasons being, why should other people have to walk further because a minority spoil it for them due to vandalising and as the litter pickers would still have to pick litter up strewn around the gazebo anyway. **Action: SK to check that the new bin would be vandal proof and to ask the PC if we could re-consider siting it next to the gazebo.**

3.2 SK reported that LCC were going to fill in the holes with tarmac close to the festival so they wouldn't wear away before it. However, having just had a Festival meeting on the park, it was noted that the holes were already filled in with grey stone like the rest of the car park. Last year they were also filled in but we didn't know who by, so wondered if the same person had done it. **Action: SK to find out if it was LCC or not.**

3.3 SK confirmed that the PC Chairman had met with a contractor about completing the work needed at the entrance, to be done before the Festival, if possible. The quote will be considered at the next PC meeting on 19th June 2023, but all being well hopefully this will be done before the Festival. At this point a post is to be put in on the West side to mark a pedestrian entrance – approximately 1m from the garage. It was said that the contractor would provide a flat surface onto the car park with some surfacing. The group asked what this flat surface would be made from and expressed a feeling that the post really needed to be 2m from the garage as many

children's buggies are quite wide these days. **Action: SK to find out more about the proposed surface and express the wish to the PC about the 2m wide pedestrian entrance.**

4. Operations, Administration and Finance

4.1 The park entrance was discussed. Although one member had previously liked the idea of a shared vehicle and pedestrian entrance, the rest of the group preferred a division of some kind to mark out a separate vehicle and pedestrian entrance. Furthermore, taking into account safety being the main reason for improving the entrance, the group felt that a pedestrian entrance on each side would be the best option. This is because naturally one is needed on the garage side as a lot of people walk down the street from the high street and we wouldn't want them to have to cross the entrance to get into the park. However, a lot of people also park in the car park across the road and the entrance which they then come out of would also mean having to cross the front of the park entrance to enter as a pedestrian if there was only one pedestrian entrance on the garage side. Some members also questioned what the surface would be as it would have to be safe for wheelchairs etc. and again the wish was expressed for a 2m wide entrance on each side due to the size of some children's buggies as previously stated. **Action: SK to find out what the proposed surface would be and to express the group's wishes for the 2 pedestrian entrances.**

4.2 There was a brief update about the maintenance working group's activities.

4.2.1 The working group had met 3 times since the last meeting and had mainly been working on removing the encroachment of grass and filling in rabbit holes. It was particularly nice to know that on the Kings Coronation bank holiday volunteer day, 8 people turned up as part of a Rotary group volunteer event, but unfortunately only managed an hour and a half or so due to the heavy rain. The next meet up is Tuesday 13th June and then there will be one in July. **Action: LB to put something about it on social media.**

4.2.2 It was mentioned that they did litter picking one day. Although it's not really what the group was set up to do, it needed doing. Obviously the park has been busy during the hot weather and we wondered if there were extra people on the litter picking rota to help with this as discussed at a meeting last year. **Action: SK to find out about this from KA who does the rota.**

4.2.3 There was a discussion about the further vandalism to the picket fence around the nature area. Previously it had been agreed that once the weather was better that the maintenance WG would repair the fence using a stronger system of wooden batons and screws rather than nails. However, it was generally felt that any kind of a wooden fence will be a target for vandalism. It had also been noted that the grass had been cut right up to the nature area by the contractor (although he hasn't been asked not to, so there is nothing principally wrong with this). LB suggested replacing the fence with large boulders and then other members suggested large logs as well and perhaps any other similar environmentally friendly objects. The whole group were in favour of this as it would also enhance the area

with potential habitats for insects. It was also felt that the contractor should be asked to not cut the grass right up to the area again to allow for habitats. **Action: SK to ask the PC if we could look at replacing the fence with boulders/ logs etc. and to see if the maintenance contractor can be asked about leaving some of the grass uncut.**

4.2.4 AC had inspected the matting under the new play equipment, as it was mentioned that it needed looking at in the play equipment annual inspection report. AC feels it is really a job for a contractor to do as it perhaps wasn't compacted particularly well when it was put in and has now created pockets and the corners are lifting. **Action: SK to find out if it is still under any kind of guarantee or ask the PC if we can obtain quotes for a contractor to undertake the work.**

4.2.5 AC suggested that the table be removed from the far gazebo as it had been covered in graffiti and felt that even though it had been cleaned off, it would happen again. After some discussion, however, the majority of the group felt it should remain in the gazebo as the enjoyment of the majority should not be spoiled by the actions of a minority doing the vandalism. It would appear that the special anti-graffiti liquid painted into the ceiling and walls must be working as they'd not been graffitied on since. We wondered if it is not suitable though for benches and tables as people use them to eat their picnics and take away food from. **Action: SK to find out if the liquid is suitable and could therefore be painted on or if the PC would need to purchase it and have it done.**

4.3 As an update to the litter picking problems and lack of recycling within the park, SK confirmed that the bags of litter left for LCC to collect are not opened and therefore any recyclable contents are not recycled, it is all simply incinerated at RERF. The PC have arranged for Forge Recycling to provide recycling bins for the Festival and were going to use it as a way of assessing how successful it is when considering using Forge on an ongoing basis, albeit at a cost, when the LCC litter collection is free. However, after having discussions with Forge via the Green Group, it has come to light that, as they hand sort the rubbish, they will not do it if dogs are allowed into the park, as the waste would be contaminated with poo bags and we have no way of controlling that these do not get into the recycling bins.

5. Nature area / green spaces

5.1. The BSW&V CGG Trees and Wildlife Corridors member who had been growing the plug plants for the wildflower meadow had already planted some. He would also weed out some of the encroaching plants at some point. The group had asked for notification when anything was being planted or work undertaken. Some plants had died due to the hot weather, but he has more to plant later and wondered if the allotment tap could be used. AC asked if he/ 'the CGG' would be paying for the water as allotment holders pay £10 a year for the water. We will need to remember to start looking at when will be the right time for the contractor to cut the wildflower meadow grass (from late August to mid-September depending on weather conditions) which we will decide upon along with input from the CGG. **Action: SK to remind the CGG to let us know when anything is being planted or done**

to the wildflower area and to find out about the water situation from the PC and to organise a brief meet up in the park from late August onwards for anyone who wishes to have a say in the time for the cut to be most effective.

6. Events and Fundraising

6.1 LB gave an update on the Stables Lane Boston Spa Festival event Party in the Park which she is organising. As well as the usual classic cars and food stalls, there will be the addition this year of some fairground rides for younger children as well as some games like hook a duck and darts which are on their vehicles and some dance company performances. Salt are putting on 2 films each day, one in the morning and one in the evening along with the usual Wimbledon tennis finals on both days. We had just had a site meeting to decide on the layout which is going to be slightly different this year, but hopefully more like a Festival feel with the Salt screen and bar set up as the focal point towards the back of the park. This time there will be more recycling facilities on the park, provided by Forge recycling. There will be 2 bins at four different points around the park – 1 for dry mixed recyclables, like glass, plastic bottles, cans and recyclable plastic and cardboard packaging and one for food waste along with compostable takeaway food packaging. General waste other than these items would then be put in the usual bins, although there will be no skip this year.

6.1.2 The Fairground company owners (Traditional Leisure) who attended the site meeting have asked if we can ask the PC for permission for them to hold a full fair either in September, depending on whether the football club will be needing to use their pitches or not. All members seemed to think this would be a good idea. **Action SK to ask for the PC's approval for this.**

7. AOB

7.1 SK asked if the ice cream van had continued to stop on a regular basis, but it appears not as he hasn't been seen for a while.

7.2 There was a lengthy discussion about how beneficial an entrance adjacent to St. Mary's which could be safely used by the school children and public would be to provide access from that end of the village, rather than people having to come the long way round on narrow footpaths. It was always part of the original vision for the park as well as part of the neighbourhood plan. In the past it had been difficult to engage with the school on this matter. However it seems some of the school governors may be more approachable now as well as the current head teacher. LB advised that they are also going to be undertaking some work with changes to the site layout, so now would be a good time to try and engage with them about it again. **Action: LB will broach the subject with the head teacher to see if some sort of engagement is going to be possible.**

7.3 There was some discussion about the lost property items found in the park by litter picking volunteers. Usually they are left out somewhere visible, but get wet when it rains. Two different ideas were suggested, either if someone could donate some sort of a trunk (or we could purchase one), this could be located near the pictorial sign near the park entrance, for example or could a suitable box be purchased to go on the defibrillator pole. **Action: SK to ask the PC about this.**

7.4 GS asked about signage for the gate to stop people parking in front of it. Last year paint had been bought for a bowling club member to paint the gate with the wording 'do not obstruct – emergency vehicle access required'. However, the volunteer has been unable to do this up to now. It was suggested that in the meantime, could a laminated sign be produced to be tied on with plastic ties (2-3 might be needed in case they are pulled down). **Action: SK to chase up the volunteer member about the sign painting and / or ask the PC about temporary laminated signs.**

7.5 GS asked about better signage so that visitors to the bowling club could find the park more easily. This had previously been brought up with the PC back in February, but SK and SC were not sure of the outcome, other than LCC were possibly to be asked about having a sign put on the one which is already on Pine Tree avenue, directing road users to the public car park on Stables Lane. **Action: SK to find out what the outcome of this was or to see if it can be further progressed.**

7.6 KJ mentioned that there were now two pre planning applications, which can be viewed on the LCC portal relating to the Church Street development, under references 23/03008/FU (Borlocco House) and 23/02872/FU (St. Vincents, formerly known as Brownberrie School). LB also mentioned that before the next PC meeting on Monday 19th June 2023, there will be an extra half hour for the public to attend (from 6.30pm) as Illuminating Investments and McCarthy Stone will be there to present their plans for the developments.

Meeting Closed – 9.00 pm

Next Meeting 7pm Tuesday 5th September 2023, Committee room, Boston Spa Village Hall