

Friends of Stables Lane (FOSL) Working Group - Minutes

Meeting 7pm Tue December 13th 2022, 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

Also in attendance: Keith Blake (PC Chairman)

Members of the public in attendance: Mike Gadd (also representing BSW&V Community Green Group), John McDonnell (from Illuminating Investments – to answer questions about the PWP proposal for Stables Lane Park)

Minutes

1. Comments from the public

1.1 John McDonnell answered many questions from the group about the PWP proposal for Stables Lane Park. The only issue which couldn't be answered at this point (as it can only be once the planning application is accepted) was how wide the eventual strip of wildlife corridor would be on the development side. The impact of this would be how much of the park needed to be encroached upon in order to maintain a wide enough corridor to sustain wildlife adequately.

2. PWP Proposal for the Park

2.1 The outcome of the PWP proposal discussion, as mentioned above, was that the group were unanimous in deciding to recommend to the PC to accept the proposal, on the basis that it is a desirable plan which covers off many expectations for the park's further development in the future. However, it was strongly felt that some sort of electricity provision needed to be included in the plan and the group were all for making the eventual wildlife corridor as wide as it needs to be in order to successfully sustain wildlife, even if this meant some encroachment on the park itself. **Action: SK to ask to PC to have the electricity provision included in the plan.**

3. Operations, Administration and Finance

3.1 The maintenance group are going to start again in March, once the weather is better, although AC will keep an eye on the rabbit holes appearing near the path and fill them in in the

meantime. Some other maintenance items are to be added to the jobs to do list (from a recent email from KA).

3.2 Regarding the litter picking issues and lack of recycling within the park, SK briefly updated the group that since the last meeting, the PC have put £2500 into the budget to allow for recycling collections/ bins and the clerk is in the process of obtaining quotes from various companies.

Update: It was decided at the PC meeting, that we would include within our specification, that, companies interested in quoting should tell us how the rubbish would be disposed of (E.g. recycled or incinerated) and if waste could be sorted, so that litter pickers wouldn't have to do this.

3.3 There was a brief discussion about the pole to house the proposed floodlight as we would need to apply for planning permission to use the existing pole which would most likely be refused and would therefore have to look at a new one at a higher cost. Also, it wouldn't give a great amount of coverage, so it was agreed that the issue be deferred for now as it's really part of the wider picture of the electricity needs within the park (as mentioned in point 2 above).

3.4 LB presented to the group the idea of having a permanent table tennis table in the park. The loan of the equipment could be managed by Salt, but as they currently have no General Manager in place and we are in the middle of winter, we would defer any further discussions until with them in the spring. It was felt by all the group members present, that, this would be great for the park as it potentially includes all ages and would give teenagers something else to do within the park. **Action: To be followed up at the March meeting.**

4. Nature area / green spaces

4.1. SK had spoken to the BSW&V Community Green Group (Mike Gadd – who leads the Wildlife Corridors and Trees group) and confirmed that if the group were happy with it, the CGG would like to help develop the 2 wildflower meadows areas. The group were happy with this as long as there would be some liaison between the 2 groups about what was going to be done and when.

4.2 The group had been asked by the PC clerk to review the tender document with regards to the wild flower meadows cutting regime. The group decided to keep it simple and just recommend to have one cut a year, late August to mid-September but made 3 stipulations, as follows:

- * That it be done within a 2 week window of being advised by mutual agreement between FOSL and BSW&V CCG that it was the right time (in order to make sure that seed heads were ready as weather conditions vary each year)

- * That it be done with a mechanical scythe

- * That the cut grass be left in situ (this would then be left until the seeds had been sufficiently dispersed and then removed by the BSW&VCGG and / or the FOSL maintenance group.

Update: The PC were all happy with this and the tender document has been updated.

4.3 KJ had looked further into the requirements to achieve the Green Flag award for the Park. Unfortunately we would not be able to make the application date this year as it's the end of January and quite a few things need to be put into place. Also, the fee would be about £360 +VAT and it needs to be renewed each year. There is a possibility that we may be able to apply for a fee free entry based on being a community project, but KJ needs to look into this further to be sure. SK suggested that if we were to go ahead with the application for 2024, that a smaller group of members interested in taking it further should be formed. **Action: SK to find out if the PC would be happy to support the idea (including the funding should we not qualify for the fee free entry).**

5. AOB

5.1 JB asked about the progress of finding out who land/ tree etc. belong to at the entrance to the park so that we could start to remedy some of the safety issues particularly when parents are picking up school children. **Action: SK to ask the PC at the next meeting.**

Update: The PC will try and establish to begin with who owns the tree on the land adjacent to the park entrance with a view to getting it removed as a matter of priority.

Meeting Closed – 9.30 pm

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