

Friends of Stables Lane (FOSL) Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7pm.

The meeting started at Stables Lane Community Park followed by

Boston Spa Village Hall Committee Room

Draft Minutes

Attendees: David Taylor (DT), Scott Courts (SC), Kevin Alderson (KA), Keith Jackson (KJ), Lynn Beckwith (LB), Andy Colledge (AC), John Blackhouse (JB)

Apologies: Luke Broadbent, Geoff Shaw

Comments from the public - [No members of the public were in attendance](#)

1. Approval of last meetings minutes – [Approved by LB & SC](#)

2. Administration, Maintenance and Finance Issues

2.1. Car Park area resurfacing update – [There are a few snagging\drainage issues that were highlighted by the committee members. KA agreed to address these with the contractor. A retention is being held by the Parish Council \(PC\) until these are resolved. However, it was agreed that the car park surface is a considerable improvement on the previous surface.](#)

[There is some concern that unauthorised vehicles or caravans could access the overflow car park area due to the state of the existing logs surrounding the overflow car park. It was agreed that FOSL councillors would bring this to the attention of the Parish Council to request the replacement\installation of additional logs to prevent this risk.](#)

[It was also agreed that an additional planter at the entrance of the overflow car park would also act as a deterrent. LB is to ask if Boston in Bloom could assist with this.](#)

2.2. Maintenance of the Park update – [The litter and monthly maintenance rotas appear to be working well and we appear to have enough volunteers to keep the park looking nice. AC raised the issue that the wildflower areas not being maintained correctly by Baxter maintenance \(BM\). It was agreed that DT would send a copy of the current contract with BM to AC for review and potential amendment going forward and it was also agreed that KJ would send AC the current guidelines from the RHS on wildflower areas to ensure we are ensuring correct treatment of the areas.](#)

2.3. Play equipment area and park incident on 6th August – [DT updated the WG on the incident of 6th August where a child had caught her foot on a small bridge section between two sections of the infant play area resulting in the local Fire Service having to cut the bridge. The child \(aged 8\) was over the maximum age of 5 allowed on the infant play area. A new bridge has been ordered and is expected to be installed during September. In the meantime, the damaged part of the playground equipment has been sectioned off by chains and warning notices. The new Park entrance board will highlight the age restrictions for the two areas of the play equipment.](#)

2.4. Relocation of Vandal Proof Bins – [A new green anti vandal bin is being installed the w/c 21st September.](#)

2.5. Update on damaged fence adjoining St. Mary's School - DT updated the WG on the repairs that had been carried out at the request of the school following the recent vandalism. In the autumn Mike Gadd will plant suitable brambles and bushes to try and prevent further anti-social behaviour. St Mary's school is responsible for the fence and will try to improve security around the grounds as their limited funds allow.

2.6. Green Flag Award – KJ attended the awards ceremony on 18th July at York Racecourse. It was agreed that both the flag and the small metal award plaque sign would be placed on the fencing of the tennis court tennis court but in the long term it is hoped that a flagpole can be installed in the park to accommodate the flag. DT will establish if planning is required to erect a flagpole which would probably be sited near the park entrance.

3. Events and Fundraising

3.1. Festival Party in the Park – LB advised that the event overall was disappointing with poor attendance due to weather and a number of stalls failing to turn up. SALT (Event Sponsor) made a major loss on the event and the PC also incurred a small loss. LB has decided to step down from organising the event given the responsibility and reliance on volunteers required to run the event. It was agreed by the WG that a dedicated committee (possibly commercial) should organise and operate the event requiring little involvement from FOSL. LB advised that Traditional Leisure (fairground operators) had expressed an interest in organising the event. Ultimately it is down to the PC who have overall responsibility for the Park to determine the suitability of any commercial operator.

3.2. Permanent Table Tennis Table Update – DT advised the WG that Rotary were not interested in assisting with this project due to other priorities. KA advised that Penny Stables (PS) was in discussions with Leeds City Council (LCC) about funding for a table. DT to follow up with PS

4. Current Projects

4.1 Park Entrance Sign – Having now decided on the style of the park sign, it was agreed that the board would be located directly behind the right side of the steel gate entrance at an angle of 45 degrees. Following some discussion on the original suggested wording issued by the Parish Clerk to go inside the sign, it was agreed that KA would draw up a proposed wording for agreement by the Group before the next PC meeting.

4.2 Park Benches opposite the Tennis Courts – Following no objections from the Tennis Club to the siting of two Park Benches adjacent to the tennis courts, the Group agreed that the two benches would be located on either side of the front RHS court net and around 500cm to the right of the existing concrete footpath running alongside the tennis courts. It was agreed that the style of the bench would be a double-sided accessible bench seat with wheelchair transfer space as recommended by Leeds City Council and currently installed in City Square. DT to obtain quotes from Marshalls (supplier to Leeds City Council) for two benches for approval by the PC.

Future Projects

5.1 Church Street – There are no significant update to report. The planning application from McCarthy and Stone that was declined by LCC is subject to appeal as at 15th August.

5.2 Herb Garden – KJ advised the Group that Angela Bastow had suggested a herb garden somewhere near to the play area shelter where there would be a planter/raised bed. The idea being that visitors could help themselves to fresh herbs for picnics etc. Herbs are relatively easy to maintain. It was agreed that the WG would support the idea in principle and that **KJ** would discuss with Angela where would funding come from, the design of the planter and ongoing maintenance and whether she would be prepared to be a project leader and volunteer for this project.

5.3 Potential Additional Members for FOSL WG. – Anne Watts (newly appointed Parish Councillor) has decided not to join the FOSL Group for the time being due to other commitments. It was agreed that it would be useful to have a representative (Teacher, Governor or Parent) from St Mary's School on the FOSL committee. **DT** to contact the Head Teacher Carol Benson to encourage someone to become a member.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 3rd December 2024

Meeting was closed at 9.15pm

Minutes Drafted by David Taylor