

Friends of Stables Lane (FOSL) Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7pm.

Boston Spa Village Hall Committee Room

Minutes

Attendees: David Taylor (DT), Kevin Alderson (KA), Keith Jackson (KJ), Lynn Beckwith (LB), John Backhouse (JB)

Apologies: Luke Broadbent, Geoff Shaw (GS) , Scott Courts, Andy College (AC)

1. Comments from the public - No members of the public were in attendance
2. Approval of last meetings minutes – These were approved by the Group

3. Administration and Maintenance Issues

- 3.1. Car Park area resurfacing update – Following a revisit by the contractor there is one area which still puddles when it rains. However, the car park surface appears to be fit for the purpose and is draining OK. KA will contact the contractor again if necessary.

It was agreed that the area to the right and adjacent to the car park entrance could be improved by the tidying\installation of some hedging. KJ to take this idea forward for implementation.

KA agreed to speak to Mike Gadd with reference to removing low branches from some of the new trees in the park that now require this work.

An additional planter at the entrance of the overflow car park has now been installed.

- 3.2 Maintenance of the Park update – Fortunately no vandalism of note to report probably due to the securing of the escape run out of the South West area of the park. The litter and monthly maintenance rotas appear to be working well and we appear to have enough volunteers. However, AC has reported that the working groups to maintain the park have not worked well apart from the 4/5 volunteers from Rotary Club who keep the encroaching vegetation cut back to the path edges. In particular the grass edging the footpath leading down to the bowling club were now overgrown and require action. It was agreed that it was difficult to get more volunteers and there were not the funds available to pay for this work. It was agreed that DT would contact GS to see if the Bowling Club would be prepared to take on this task on a regular basis. It was also agreed that KA would ask Councillor Emily Alderson to put out a request for volunteers on the Parish Council social media outlets.
- 3.3 Play equipment area update. Nothing of note to report. A couple of minor pieces of equipment need replacing and these are on order.
- 3.4 Update on damaged fence adjoining St. Mary's School - DT will follow up with Mike Gadd on the installation of brambles and bushes following the recent repairs to the fence.
- 3.5 Proposed Revised Grass Cutting Schedule - KJ updated the Group on a proposed revised schedule drawn up by KJ and AC to include proposals for the treatment of the 2 wild flower areas. Guidance was taken from documents produced by RHS Harlow Carr. In summary the revised schedule proposes a reduction in grass cutting during the winter months and an

annual cut of the perennial flower areas. After discussion it was agreed to support the proposal and DT will forward the schedule to the Clerk of the Parish Council for pricing by the existing contractor. It was agreed that the new schedule should be introduced ideally from January.

- 3.6 Green Flag Award – It was agreed that FOSL would submit an application to renew the Green Flag award for 2025. The application is due in by the end of January. **KA** has agreed to assist **KJ** in submitting the application.
- 3.7 Use of the main and overspill car park. - Following an email request from a resident who is a member of the bowling club and an allotment holder to give priority to the tennis and bowling club members, it was agreed by the Group that it would not be appropriate to designate certain area of the main car park to specific groups due to the large number of different users of the park. However, it was agreed that allotment holders and bowling club members could have access to the key for the main gate and the overspill car park area on an ad hoc basis providing the current key holder (Parish Clerk) was agreeable to such an arrangement. In addition, there was agreement that the Bowling Club could have a key to the overspill car park for match days (They already have a key for the access gate). **DT** to email the Clerk with this proposal.

4. Events and Fundraising

- 4.1. Possible Festival Party in the Park – **DT** advised the Group that the Parish Council (PC) had set up an Events Committee which is meeting on 5th December to ascertain whether to support\approve a 'Party in the Park' event in 2025 following the poor attendance and logistical issues around the 2024 event. **DT** to advise the FOSL Group of the outcome of the meeting.

Circus Fair Event - The PC had received a request from a small family circus to hold performances during the half term week (End of May) next year. It was agreed that providing certain conditions were met relating to car parking, advance notice of timings of the events etc the FOSL would have no objection to such an event being held.

- 4.2. Permanent Table Tennis Table – Rotary have confirmed that they will not provide any funding for a table. **DT** agreed to look at potential grants available and obtain quotes.

5. Ongoing\Future Projects

- 5.1. Update on Park Benches beside the tennis courts – **DT** reported that the double sided accessible seats as proposed by Leeds Council and previously approved by the FOSL Group were no longer available. It was agreed that ideally the benches should be of the same design as the existing benches and seats in the park. It was suggested and agreed that due to the proposed cost of two sets of double-sided accessible seats (c£10.5k) that a discussion should be had with the Disabled Group representative in the village to look at alternatives. **DT** to contact the relevant person
- 5.2. Update on the new Park Entrance Sign – **KA** reported that this was on order and hopefully would be installed within the next few weeks.
- 5.3. Update on Church Street Development – Nothing of note to report
- 5.4. Future Wishlist Due to lack of time it was agreed that **DT** would ask for ideas from the Group in advance of the next meeting.

6. Potential New Members for FOSL. Due to other commitments Councillor Anne Watts has now confirmed that she is not able to join the FOSL Group. 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 again to encourage someone to become a member. **KA** will ask Councillor Emily Alderson to advertise for new members via the PC Social Media outlets.

7. AOB - DT advised the Group that the PC draft budget had allocated a similar level of funding as in previous years to Stables Lane upkeep and ongoing improvements. The Stables Lane reserve was current c£22k.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 4th March 2025

Meeting was closed at 9.00pm

Minutes drafted by David Taylor