

Friends of Stables Lane (FOSL) Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 3rd June 2025 at 7pm.

Boston Spa Village Hall Committee Room

Minutes

Attendees: David Taylor (DT), Kevin Alderson (KA), Keith Jackson (KJ), Geoff Shaw (GS), Scott Courts,

Apologies: Lynn Beckwith (LB), Andy Colledge, Luke Broadbent

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 – **There is an ongoing issue with the area at the bottom of the resurfaced car park around the manhole cover which continues to flood. KA is in communication with Rural Roots who did the original work who are planning to try and rectify the issue. It is possible that the only long-term solution is to look at an alternative surface that will provide sufficient drainage. KA to follow up. Bin Store Update – KA reported that the new bins storage display area is working OK and a big improvement on the previous display. However it was agreed to look at slightly bigger bins to help facilitate storing several bags in them**

3.2 Maintenance of the Park – **KJ advised that considerable work in conjunction with the Boston Green Group and other volunteers had now been carried out along the hedge area to the right and adjacent to the car park. AC provided a written update that there have been no issues arising in the park to his knowledge and that the water tap has now been repaired. The new mowing regime appears to have started well with the wildlife area uncut and supporting a considerable amount of wild flowers for the first time as well as protecting the bulbs to allow natural die back. It was noted that the bowling club had done an excellent job on keeping the verge of the path leading to the bowling club in good order. GS to pass on the FOSL committee's thanks.**

It was noted by the committee that there appear to be a number of small holes appearing near the stage area. It is not known what has caused these holes and they do not appear to be animal or wildlife related. It was agreed to monitor the holes over the next few months and report back if additional holes appear or they become bigger.

3.3 Playground Equipment update – **KA advised that all the playground equipment is in good order. The professional safety assessment is carried out on a quarterly basis.**

3.4 Green Flag Award – **KJ advised that an invitation had been received to attend the Regional Awards day on Tuesday 15th July which suggests that the park has achieved its Green Flag award from 2025. It was agreed that KJ and GS would attend on behalf of FOSL. (Subsequently GS is unable to attend so DT will be attending in his absence)**

4. Park Events Update

Circus Event - DT advised the Group that the Circus event held on the park from Wednesday to Sunday the previous week had been deemed a success with good attendances from the local community. The operators (James Richard) had treated the park with due care and attention and left the park in a very tidy state. It was noted that the Circus operator had written to the Parish Clerk to highlight the anti-social behaviour of a few youths damaging the roof of the gazebo area at the far end of the park and that also some branches had been thrown at the circus tent. The clerk has replied asking them to report the issue to the police. It is hoped that this will not deter the circus from visiting the park next year.

Party in the Park – Sunday 13th July. Plans are well advanced by the Events Committee of the Parish Council for the day which will include a Classic Car rally and SALT will be providing a bar and a big screen to watch the Men's Wimbledon Final. There are also a number of other activities on the field. Both the Tennis and Bowling Clubs are supportive of the event.

5. Ongoing\Future Projects

- 5.1. Update on Park Benches beside the tennis courts – **DT** advised that the two double sided seats to meet accessibility needs had now been ordered with delivery and installation scheduled for late June\early July. The committee agreed on the exact location for the seats to be located and it was agreed that **KJ and DT** will be on site on the day of installation to advise the contractors of the location of the benches.
- 5.2. Update on Church Street Development – Nothing of note to report. The Parish Council members of the committee understand that the St Vincent's building on the site which was recently subjected to a fire caused by arson may be demolished following discussions between Leeds City Council and the Developers.
- 5.3. Future Wishlist(s) – It was agreed that this should take place at the end of 2025 when hopefully the outcome of the Church Street development will be known and the recent St Mary's School refurbishments had been completed.
- 5.4. Table Tennis Table – It was agreed that an outdoor metal table would be a great addition for the park subject to funds being available from both Leeds City Council and the Parish Council. **DT** to investigate funding and cost options from Leeds City Council

6. AOB

6.1 Potential New Members for FOSL. At the last meeting It was agreed that it would be useful to have a representative from St Mary's School on the FOSL committee. SC advised that Colin Speers (Chair of St. Mary's School Governors) had kindly agreed to become a member of FOSL committee and would be attending the next meeting in September. It was agreed that having a representative from the School would hopefully encourage more pupils to benefit\use the park. In addition, Colin will be a useful point of contact as the FOSL committee is keen to pursue the option for a public footpath from Clifford Road to the East entrance of the Park around the school grounds as per the Village Neighbourhood Plan. **SC** will forward the minutes of this meeting to Colin Seers and provide an introduction to the rest of the FOSL committee

Date of next meeting - It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday 2nd September at 7pm. SC will chair the meeting as DT will be on holiday.

The Meeting was closed at 8.40pm

Minutes drafted by David Taylor