

# Friends of Stables Lane (FOSL) Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7pm.

Boston Spa Village Hall Committee Room

## Draft Minutes

Attendees: David Taylor (DT), Keith Jackson (KJ), John Backhouse (JB), Luke Broadbent (LB), Geoff Shaw (GS), Scott Courts (SC), Andy College (AC).

Apologies: Kevin Alderson (KA), Lynn Beckwith (LB)

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 – [KA is in contact with the contractors. They are assessing the surface around the manhole cover that is regularly wearing away and will remedy the problem in the near future. However, it was the view of some of the Committee that other areas of the car park may need some remedial work. DT to speak to KA on this matter.](#)

[Bin Store Update – KA reported that the bins store has been discussed with Mike Gadd and the work is likely to be done within the next few weeks. 4 bins will be purchased along with an appropriate anchoring method to secure them.](#)

[3.2 Park Trees Update – KJ advised that considerable work in conjunction with the Boston Spa Green Group and other volunteers had been carried out over the past couple of months to remove the low branches and wire protectors that were on the new trees. In addition, the hedge area to the right and adjacent to the car park has been cut back and a bank built up to the edge of the car park. It was agreed that this area is now much improved. JB expressed some concerns that the way the lower branches had been cut would cause growth spurts in that area. This was disputed by KJ given the advice provided by Mike Gadd who has expertise in this area. KJ also advised the Group that the Green Group had kindly donated a couple of olive trees to be planted at the boundary between the car park and overspill car park.](#)

[3.3 Playground Equipment update – KA advised that all the playground equipment is in good order. A professional safety assessment will be carried out in March as the Parish Council commences with quarterly safety assessments.](#)

[3.4 Maintenance of the Park Update. DT advised that the Parish Council had agreed a revised grass and wild flower cutting schedule with Baxter's. AC advised that the Rotary Club were no longer able to provide volunteers on a monthly basis to help with grass verge creep on the footpaths and that it would be proving difficult to attract volunteers for such tasks despite calls for help via the Parish Council social media and newsletters. It was agreed that AC would discuss with KA whether he was aware of any potential volunteers from previous appeals for volunteers. AC is happy to co-ordinate any new volunteer groups.](#)

**GS** advised that the Bowling Club were happy to assist as far as possible with maintaining the grass verge creep on the footpath leading to the bowling club. It was agreed that the volunteer Litter Picking Group were continuing to be effective. There were no issues of concern reported of any anti-social behaviour reported.

3.5 Green Flag Award – **KJ** advised that an application to renew the Green Flag award for 2025 had been submitted. It is likely that a mystery visit to the park will be undertaken by the assessors before renewing the award.

#### 4. Park Events Update

**DT** advised the Group that the Parish Council (PC) had set up an Events committee which has decided to co-ordinate a one day 'Party in the Park' event on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July as part of the Boston Spa Festival weekend. More details of this event will be available in due course and will include the Classic Car Event. Both the Tennis and Bowling Clubs had been advised and were supportive of the event.

**DT** advised that the Parish Council had approved (subject to a number of conditions) a request from a small family circus to hold performances over a few days during the half term week (End of May). This was supported by the Group. **DT** will ask the Clerk to advise the Tennis and Bowling Club of dates and timings of the performances.

#### 5. Ongoing\Future Projects

- 5.1. Update on Park Benches beside the tennis courts – **DT** advised that the design of two double sided seats to meet accessibility needs had now been agreed and will be approved at the next Parish Council meeting. The style of the seats will be the Tooting Style which is the same design as the benches currently installed around the park.
- 5.2. New Park Entrance Sign – This is now complete. Thanks to KA for co-ordinating this project.
- 5.3. Update on Church Street Development – Nothing of note to report
- 5.4. Future Wishlist – Due to a lack of time there was only a short discussion of potential future projects including a proposed footpath entrance to the East of the park via St Mary's Primary School. **DT** proposed that a separate meeting be held from the Quarterly meeting at some point to discuss potential future projects. It was agreed that this should take place towards 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.

6.1 Potential New Members for FOSL. As per the current Terms of Reference (TOR) for 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.

6.2 Review of the Terms of Reference for FOSL. The existing TOR were reviewed by the Group and it was agreed that the only change required was that the Group meets every Quarter rather than monthly. The meeting dates to be set on the First Tuesday of the following months (March, June, September and December)

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 at 7pm.

Meeting was closed at 9.10pm

Minutes drafted by David Taylor