

Friends of Stables Lane (FOSL) Working Group Meeting

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7pm
Boston Spa Village Hall Committee Room

Draft Minutes

Attendees: David Taylor (DT), Keith Jackson (KJ), John Backhouse (JB), Luke Broadbent (LBr) , Janine Jackson

Apologies: Andy Colledge (AC), Lynn Beckwith (LB) Kevin Alderson (KA), Scott Courts.

1. Comments from the public (from 7.00 maximum of 20 minutes) – [No members of the public were in attendance](#)

2. Approval of last meeting minutes – [Approved by the group](#)

3. Operations, Administration and Finance

3.1. Car Park resurfacing – [There was considerable discussion and concern expressed regarding the current state of the car park particularly around the front entrance area next to the tennis courts. The Parish Council has also received correspondence from the tennis club regarding damage to a couple of the courts allegedly caused by the recent excess rain and subsequent flooding of the surface of the car park. Given the ongoing issues the Parish Council recently instructed Future Civils \(Specialist Drainage Company\) to carry out a CCTV survey to look at the manhole at the entrance to Stables Lane. They have confirmed that the manhole chamber is fine, but that the possible explanation for the sinkage of the hardcore is due to the French drainage system that was causing the hardcore to sink. Their recommendation would be to excavate and put a base layer of permeable tarmac down and reinstate the defective area with block paving. The problem will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 16th March and it was proposed that John Backhouse attends this meeting on behalf of the FOSL committee.](#)

3.2 Maintenance of Park update – AC was not able to attend the meeting but subsequently provided an update to confirm that the park was in satisfactory condition apart from the first bench along the path towards the allotments which has now developed a large hole due to water ingress where it is attached to the supporting base upright. It will probably need a new top fixing. DT will ask the Parish Council to arrange a repair if possible.

3.3 Playground Equipment update – KA was not able to attend the meeting but reported that the ‘arm lift’ gym equipment has become loose and so it has been closed off whilst the Parish Council await the supplier to repair it.

3.4 2026 Green Flag Award update – KJ advised that the submission of the 2026 Green Flag Award has been completed and we await the inspection and audit. KJ and DT are planning to watch a training webinar on 5th March which explains dealing with site inspections.

3.5 Replacement of Gazebo roof in South West corner of Park – This has now been completed and it is expected that the gazebo roof by the playground area will also be carried out later this year.

3.6 Car Park Sign - It was agreed by the committee at the last meeting in December that a cost would be obtained for installing a sign at the car park entrance to inform car drivers that the park is for those using the park. DT to obtain cost and seek approval from the Parish Council.

4. 2026 Events Update

4.1. DT reported that the ‘Party in the Park’ event will be held on Sunday 12th July starting around 12noon to 8pm to include the Wimbledon tennis final being shown on the big screen provided by the Boston Tap.

4.2. DT advised that the Circus Company which attended in May last year to great success were keen to return but would not be able to come in 2026 returning instead in 2027. They have asked the PC if they can reserve a place for 2027 and are happy to pay a holding fee for 2026 to avoid any potential competitors taking their place. It was also reported that the Parish Council have refused an application from a funfair operator to hold an event on the field.

5. Ongoing \Future Projects

5.1 Church Street Development update

DT reported that the latest application for full planning application for demolition of existing structure and development of 13 dwellings including new access from Church Street with associated works and outline application for seven self build/custom build houses was considered by Leeds Council Plans Panel on 11 December and recommended for approval. However final planning approval is still outstanding. The FOSL committee are awaiting the outcome of this application before considering how the developers can assist with developing access to the West area of the park.

5.2 Table Tennis Table grant – DT has made some enquiries on grant funding for a new Table Tennis table and will report back at the next meeting

5.3 Potential footpath from St Marys School to SE entrance of Park – No update as Colin Speers (Chair of Governors at St Marys School) was not in attendance. LBr agreed to find out the current situation regarding whether CS was still the point of contact going forward.

6. AOB – LBr made the FOSL committee aware that due to ongoing issues at St. Marys School relating to congestion issues caused by cars dropping off children in and around the school, a meeting was recently held at the school and it was proposed that the Stables Lane Car Park could be used as an additional drop off location to enable pupils to walk across the park and enter the school from the Southern exit point of the park. This would require opening up the overflow car park area on a permanent basis to facilitate the extra cars that would use the car park area. There was concern from the committee that this would put further pressure on the existing car park surface and also would cause considerable chaos at the High Street junction with Stables Lane (next to Cohens). KJ proposed an alternative solution that the school could use the rear entrance to the school which is accessed from Lonsdale Meadows (off Church Street). This could be enabled by simply improving the rear entrance path which is currently very muddy. This would keep that traffic away from the village centre and would provide multiple roads for arrival and departure. In the future when the new houses are built there will be another access point from Church Street. It was agreed that DT would raise the concerns of the committee at the next PC meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 2nd June 2026 7:00pm