

Friends of Ruskin Park

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 18 October 2011

St Bart's Church Centre

Present; Keith Gower, Veronica Hardstaff, Davo Smith, Andy Willcocks, Cllr Diane Leek, Chris Reece, Jeremy Knowles, Wendy Mason, Andrew Phillips (SCC), David Peace (Sheffield Wildlife Trust).

Veronica welcomed everyone, particularly Wendy, Andrew & David attending their first meeting.

1. Apologies: Barbara Waterhouse (who had given notice that she is standing down as secretary) Luisa Golob (Art in the Park), Bill Bevan, Cllrs Ben Curran & Nikki Sharpe. (An apology was received after the meeting from Vicky Romegoux.)

2. AGM

Minutes from AGM 2010 were received having already been approved.

Chair's Report

Veronica reported on the year's activities, including the allocation of a Community Assembly Grant of £1500 towards next year's Fun Day, and thanked officers and committee members for all their hard work..

Treasurer's Report

Keith presented accounts for the year, which showed a deficit on the Fun Day as more was spent on new attractions like the climbing wall, and less money was taken at the FORP Tea Tent. The current balance is £903.12p.

Election of Officers

Chair: Veronica Hardstaff

Vice Chair: Davo Smith

Treasurer: Keith Gower

Committee: Andy Willcocks, Chris Reece, Diane Leek.

Barbara Waterhouse and Vicky Romegoux to be child protection officers.

Secretary: Davo may be able to take on this role in a couple of months; in the meantime Veronica will do minutes. Thanks were expressed to Barbara and best wishes for her recovery.

3. Funding and future developments

Veronica reported back on the meeting where successful bidders for CA funding were able to report on their projects and network. She brought photos of adult gym equipment being installed at Oxford Street, Uppertorpe, to see if there was interest in installing similar equipment in Ruskin Park. After some discussion it was agreed that we needed to

develop an overall plan for the remaining tarmac area, Andy suggesting turfing it over and replacing the very scruffy benches. Others favoured boulders both for climbing and “hanging out” by teenagers. It was agreed to spend next meeting looking at these ideas in more detail. Andrew was asked to bring examples of similar schemes in other parks, and also to check what Section 106 money was still owing to Ruskin Park.

4. AOB

David Peace from the Wildlife Trust spoke about the partnership with Sheffield Homes, SCC and Sheffield University to develop holistic open spaces with a £450k lottery grant. Gary Taylor of Sheffield Homes land management is keen to be involved in this 3 year project, also Art in the Park. They are currently looking at Philadelphia and Burnaby Crescent. (Wendy has already developed a vegetable patch close by.) Forp is willing to give their support. A bulb planting session with a bonfire and soup has been arranged for 3rd November, 2-6pm. It was suggested Kinder Kalsi be asked to put up posters in the notice boards all round the Langsett Estate. Diane asked if the installations using tyres were a possible fire risk. David said there had not been a problem with vandalism where they had been used.

End of AGM business

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting following the AGM

1. Minutes

The September minutes were read and agreed.

2. 2012 Fun Day

This has been scheduled on the middle Saturday of the Festival, 7 July. Wendy asked if there was any chance of reviving the Blake Street Dash. It was explained that the massive increase in parked cars made it too dangerous, and we are already being required to double our event insurance to £200 as a requirement of receiving the CA grant. Chris is running a seminar in February to improve links between groups, and hopes to place student volunteers to help with events. It was suggested we try to book early to get Park Ranger involvement again, and perhaps revive the nature and treasure trail round the park.

3. AOB

The next two meetings were fixed for Tuesday 29th November and Tuesday 17th January.