

Minutes of SOS meeting held on 7 September 2006
at 7 Park Parade

Present: Peter Constable, Sue Isley, Tory Zeitlyn

In attendance: Elaine Shortt, Community Development

1. Apologies for absence: Shah Meftah, Adrian Brink, Tessa Gardner
2. Peter introduced Elaine Shortt, Grants Officer, from the Community Development department who was attending the group in connection with the renewal of the group's grant from Cambridge City Council.
3. Minutes of meeting held on 4 May and matters arising: Tory had yet to meet with Alistair Wilson regarding item 3, unfortunately neither side had found a convenient date. Under paragraph 7 A.O.B., Tory confirmed that we had written to the Council expressing SOS disappointment at the withdrawal of visitors' boats mooring [N.B. we have included a request to be consulted regarding any plans for a 2nd pumpout station.], and we had written to Mr Norton about the Addenbrooke's Link Road. Buildings on Jesus Green: there is to be a meeting on 20 September, organised by the Council to discuss this and Peter will be representing SOS.
4. Treasurer's Report: Sue reported that the balance is £413.72. The forthcoming AGM will require expenditure on room hire and refreshments. Tory to confirm whether AGM will be held at Wesley Church (where there is a concern about public liability indemnity insurance) or Park Street School.

Elaine mentioned that the auditor could not be connected to the group and we will ensure this at the election of the hon. Auditor at the AGM.

5. In connection with the grant application discussion took place over issues that SOS had been involved in over the past year. These include:
 - The skateboard park on Jesus Green
 - Licencing Act
 - Long distance bus stop
 - River moorings
 - Cars on Midsummer Common
 - Jesus Green buildings
 - Station Road application
 - Monitoring the situation regarding the bus station and Christ's Pieces

Elaine offered to attend the AGM on 2 November if possible and Tory will send her past minutes, AGM minutes, the forthcoming annual report and accounts.

Jesus Green skateboard park: The current planning permission expires in March 2008 and the council has stated its intention to return to the Green to its original use and review the city's skateboard facilities. In view of the fact that the Council will set its budget in February 2007, SOS strongly feel that the process of sorting out replacement skateboard facilities should start as soon as possible. VZ to contact planners to ascertain the timescale of plans.

6. Future contacts with Anthony French. Green Spaces Performance Officer. Under a new initiative set up by the City Council the Green Spaces Team are keen to make further and better contacts with friends' and residents' groups. A letter was received by Peter asking for our opinion of which level of contact would be appropriate (copy attached). Following Peter's reply that all three types of contact would be appropriate Anthony French responded that this issue would be covered at the meeting on 20 September. This item will be covered at our next committee meeting in December.
7. Newsletter: Tory has drafted an outline for the next newsletter which will be sent out in advance of the AGM and will send it out to the committee for comment after the meeting on 20 September regarding Jesus Green.
8. Technology Management

Peter had informed the meeting earlier of the website difficulties. The server has crashed with the result that the SOS website is inaccessible and the data already inputted has been lost. It will be two weeks before the website comes back on line and the data will have to be re-inputted (this will be done free of charge).

The plans for hosting other local groups' websites are still very much alive. Tory has been in contact with Penelope Hird, Consultation Officer at the City Council, who has the list of local groups and residents' associations. Ms Hird will be sending Tory the list shortly of those who allow their data to be handed out to a third party. Tory will then write to them asking them if they would like to come under the umbrella website of SOS. It is thought they would then be able to access their own web pages to update them (Peter to check).

With those groups that have not agreed for their data to be released it may be possible for SOS to draw up a letter for Ms Hird to send out for us. Tory to follow up.

9. A.O.B.
 - a) AGM: This will be held on 2nd November, venue to be confirmed. Peter will prepare an annual report which will be sent out in advance of the meeting (w/c 16th October), along with the newsletter and Notice of AGM. Tory also to produce a leaflet for other committee members to maildrop.

- b) Publicity for the AGM: Elaine had some very useful ideas including sending a press release to the Cambridge Evening News with an embargo date. Also to Agenda and Explorer.
- c) Constitution: Elaine noticed that the constitution lacked a 'winding down' clause i.e. what to do with the balance of money if SOS closes down. She has sent us a suggested sentence: "The group may at any time be dissolved by a decision passed by a majority of two thirds of those members present and voting at a meeting of the group. There must be at least twenty-one clear days notice of the meeting sent to all members of the group informing the members that this is the purpose of the meeting. Any assets or surplus funds must be given to another organisation with similar objects." We will incorporate this into the constitution and seek approval at the AGM.
- d) Elaine suggested the idea of asking SOS members to act as representatives for their specific green or park and to attend committee meetings in that capacity. Tory to look at the mailing list and discuss with Peter.

10. Date of Next Meetings:

Committee Meeting : Tuesday 5 December, 8pm at 7 Park Parade

Annual General Meeting: Thursday 2 November, venue to be confirmed