

Fourth AGM of Save Our green Spaces (SOS)
Held at Park Street School, Lower Park Street
On Thursday 2 November 2006

The Chair welcomed the attendees, and in particular Councillor Julie Smith, the new Executive Councillor for Arts and Recreation.

1. Apologies were received from Clive Brown, Tessa Gardener, Marjory Hart, Geoffrey King, Ian Rae, Jo Scrivens, Nick and Ursula Sims Williams, Alistair Wilson.
2. Minutes of AGM meeting held on 6 October 2005: The Chair outlined the minutes of last year's AGM
3. Matters Arising:
 - a) Park for People: Alistair Wilson had updated the Group on this Council initiative and no further communication had been received during the year on this matter.
 - b) Repairs to pathways on Midsummer Common – it would be interesting to see if repairs had been thought beneficial.
 - c) Cars on Midsummer Common – there has been serious concern about this during the year.
 - d) Licencing Act – now that the Licencing Act has been passed this issue has settled down although there are still problems with noise disturbance from various events.
 - e) Mooring policy: the question of there being too many boats along the bank was raised and Cllr Joye Rosenstiel responded that the mooring scheme was now up and running and being enforced. There was also a rubbish collection organised and illegal boats were being moved on. There were 70 moorings available and all the permanent ones were taken. 48 hour moorings were now freed up for approximately 6 boats. The Chair remarked on the importance of having the basin free for temporary mooring. There is no restriction on the size of boat moored, either in length or width. The question of double parking above the lock was raised and the meeting was informed that responsibility for this lies with Cam Conservators and not the City Council.

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chair outlined a number of issues that the Committee had discussed during the year and in particular the following issues. Members were invited to share any information.

- a) Coach Terminal – This is an ongoing issue regarding Christ's Pieces. The long distance coaches are being moved from Drummer Street to Parkside. It

was noted that SOS sought to preserve open spaces not only for use but also visually and the example of coaches lined up along side Parkers Piece was noted.

- b) Planning application for station area. The refused application was now under appeal. SOS had been involved because of the lack of provision of a transport hub. It was noted that the developer may well lodge another application whilst waiting for the appeal decision. The idea of SOS addressing the planning inspectorate was raised and taken forward and it was agreed that at the very least a formal request be lodged that our previous objection be considered.
- c) Cars on Midsummer Common: it was noted that there had been a couple of filming events in Cambridge this summer where the entourage had been allowed to park on Midsummer Common. It was noted that Friends of Midsummer Common had been reinstated and the point that Council officers should not be giving permission for parking on common land was raised. Both groups (FMS and SOS) would like a rigorous process of consultation before the event and not after and the Chair asked Cllr Smith to take this point back to the Council. In response to the second filming event Cllr Smith said that it had been requested at extremely short notice and will not be repeated.
- d) Website: SOS are still in the process of building a website with the aim that other local organisations can have a page.
- e) Cllr Smith mentioned the new Greenspaces initiative and communication strategy between local groups and the Council, to which SOS has responded.
- f) Beer Festival: There was a lack of consultation over this event. The organisers had offered money for repairs but the window of opportunity for rectification was missed over the summer resulting in the middle section of Jesus Green being out of commission for the rest of the season. Both SOS and Jesus Green Association would like the event to be moved further over to Victoria Avenue to minimise the wear and tear on the Green. It was felt to be an event inappropriate size for the present area.
- g) Buildings on Jesus Green: The Council is applying for funds from the Heritage/Lottery Fund. It is at a consultative stage at present with more clearly outlined proposals to be defined for February/March for submission in late 2007. Formal consultation will be taking place (but by whom it is not yet knows). Cllr Rosenstiel commented that the council was undertaking a review of buildings which had been erected in a previous era and were looking to enhance the Green.
- h) Guided bus: this scheme is going ahead. The additional traffic down Victoria Avenue and into Drummer Street bus station was mentioned.
- i) Trees: the particular case of a tree in Portugal Place was aired along with a request that SOS consider vertical green as well as horizontal green spaces. Cllr Smith informed us that trees were divided into three categories; there are 18,000 trees in open spaces which are in the process of being surveyed. Whilst at present those trees in open spaces are looked after reactively it is hoped that in the future the trees will be maintained on a regular basis. There is a tree officer within the Council. The Chair commented that SOS cannot be involved in the case of individual trees but will be actively involved in the context of the preservation of a view. Two further points were mentioned: firstly that the Council could have a rule that where a tree was felled, another was planted; and secondly what plan of action does the Council have with regard to the horsechestnut infestation which might affect Jesus Green,

Midsummer Common and Christ's Pieces, amongst other open spaces. SOS will write to the arborial department.

- j) The question was raised of whether SOS could follow up open spaces promises within the many new housing developments that are springing up in Cambridge. Dr J Green of BENRA was mentioned as someone who follows up building proposals.
- k) One attendee mentioned the problem on Parker's Piece of a pole inserted into the pavement and the loss of view caused by parking. Cllr Rosenstiel kindly offered to look into this matter.

5. Treasurer's Report

Sue Ilsey reported that we have a balance of £519.08 thanks to a £250 grant from the Council. The accounts were handed out to those present and had been inspected by John Cooper.

6. Revised Constitution

The paragraph, allowing dissolution of the Group and any assets to be given to an organisation with similar aims, was adopted.

7. Honorary Auditor

John Cooper again kindly agreed to act as Honorary Auditor.

8. Election of Officers

The resignation of Tessa Gardner was noted and the election of John Lawton took place.

9. Annual Subscription

An annual subscription is not proposed for this year.

10. A.O.B.

The newsletter, which is being despatched with these minutes, was mentioned and the Committee's aim to have representatives for each of the inner City's open spaces who could report back with local issues. Cllr Smith undertook to let Newnham Croft Residents' Association have our details.