Sibbertoft Peace Park Committee

Meeting Minutes

23rd November 2023 7.00pm. Held at Beeches Farmhouse, Sibbertoft.

Attended: Mark Bickerstaff (Parish Councillor and Committee Chair), Christine Kershaw, Derek Hetherton, Paula Stephenson, Eileen Gibbs
Apologies: Graham Kershaw (Chair of Parish Council)

1. The gate at the east side of the Play Park will be moved and used on the boundary between the Play Park and the Peace Park. This will not be done until the Peace Park is developed and has had a safety audit. This is estimated to take 2 years, possibly longer.

2. It was noted that the new fencing to the west border of the plot is loose. However, after further enquires after the meeting, it is noted that the fence is the responsibility of the owner of the property on that boundary.

3. Mark Bickerstaff will ensure that the Peace Park presentation is available on the Parish Council website.

4. It was agreed that a bog garden towards the bottom of the plot would work better than a pond and would have less risk. It was proposed and agreed that a path should wind through the bog garden.

5. It was agreed that the path should start at the corner of the plot adjacent to the existing footpath. Some excavation of soil would be required through the site to attain the minimum 1: 20 gradient required by regulation or, if possible, an even gentler slope.

6. It was agreed that a bench or resting area be sited halfway along the path.

7. A proposal was made by Christine Kershaw and Paula Stephenson to put a bench to the west of the plot in a sunny spot with a non-paved access. The committee agreed.

8. The idea of adding a play area to the mound was rejected, however all were in favour of using the mound to the south east of the plot as a seated area, possibly with a table.

9. It was initially proposed to remove the outhouse and repurpose the bricks. However, on a follow up visit the following day by Derek Hetherton and Mark Bickerstaff, the small building was found to be dry and of sound construction. So this will be taken back to the committee

for further consideration. Some suggestions for its new use: as a pagoda, a donated book library or even a wildlife hotel.

10. Mark Bickerstaff and other helpers will plant daffodils at the site. Derek Hetherton offered to help.

11. In the meeting a list of plants, shrubs and trees was compiled as options for planting on the site.

12. Bark and wood chippings will be used to form an initial path for the work parties through the plot. It will also enable consideration on the ground of various routes that could be made available to the public through the Peace Park.

13. Mark Bickerstaff is meeting with Graham Bailey a landscape designer for technical advice on 24th November.

14. Bottles found on the site may be of some value. They will be accrued as more are found and then used to raise money for the Peace Park project.

15. For the wheelchair and pram accessible path through the park, a resin bound material was suggested by Mark Bickerstaff and it was agreed it would be an attractive option if costs are not too prohibitive. Mark will get quotes once the route of the path has been agreed by the committee.

16. **Fundraising**: It was agreed that the Committee will reintroduce the previously very successful Open Gardens - proposed dates are the 29th and 30th of June

17. Other fund raising routes will be explored by Mark Bickerstaff with the clerk, including WNC Funding.

Next meeting: Site meeting to discuss next steps and remove brambles and ivy.
Saturday Jan 20th - Weather dependent.

Other work party sessions are proposed for Friday 26th January, Friday 2nd February and Monday 12th February

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Meeting closed at 8.25pm