

Red House Park Friends Group
6th August 2007
Meeting Notes

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 6.45p.m.

1. Present

Graham Jones	Carole Calloway SMBC
Jean Jones	Stephanie Page
Tracey Shipton	Mr. & Mrs. Pitt
Steve Davies	Rod Cragg
Carole Davies	Ray Wheatley
Josh Bannister	Jackie and John Ward
Gobind Singh	Sonia Vaughan
Thomas Wiblett	
Graham Carlin	

2. Apologies

Sarah and Jason Cross
Steve West

3. **Carole Calloway** opened the meeting by giving an explanation of the purpose of a constituted 'Friends Groups' for the benefit of the people there for the first time and to emphasis the importance of having such a group. The most important benefit being that the Council and Friends Group can work together to access funds that would not be available to the Council on their own.

4. Probation Service

Jean Jones reported that the Probation Service are due to come on 23rd August to do some of the jobs required i.e. weeding, litter picking and removing some of the graffiti.

5.. The Monument

Bill Gunn reported that there had been no response to his article in the 'Bugle'. He explained that he is eager to prove that there was a plague stating that it was Princess Charlotte as we can then access funding to repair the monument.

6. Acacia Trees and Roses

Ray confirmed that he would get the Acacia Trees delivered to the Park so that they can be planted and the roses will be planted in the Autumn as planned.

7. Dogs

There was a lot of discussion about the notices that have been put up stating where dogs are allowed. Carol Calloway said she would give the Group a contact in the Council where more information could be obtained.

8. The Park

There is a lot of concern about the state of the Park. The flowerbeds look a mess, there is litter everywhere and it looks worse than it has in years. It was explained that the Council had cut the budget so much that we only have a gardener one hour per day. There are gangs that are in the Park all night and leave behind them broken glass, needles and all kinds of other litter. The Police are not patrolling the park enough to stop this. It was explained that people are not reporting the trouble and so the Police are not treating the Park as a high priority. At the end of these Minutes are the telephone numbers to report any trouble. It was explained that even if the Police do not attend when reports are made they are noted and it builds up a picture that hopefully will give us more presence by the Police.

If you want to make any comment to the Council about the state of the Park their website address is www.sandwell.gov.uk

There is a lot of different opinion whether there is any point in locking the gates when there is so much open access to the Park, but it was decided it is worth trying, to see if it makes a difference to the gangs entering the Park particularly at night.

Carol reported that the clearance of the 2nd Pool and maintenance on the Tennis Courts would take place at the end of the year.

9. The House

Jean Jones reported that she had written to a multi millionaire to see if he would take on the cause for the House. Bill reported that BCTV had been contacted and Anthea Rawlins gave the following report.

- a) The Burglar and Fire Alarm Keyholder is Des Murphy
- b) They have obtained quotes for a steam clean of the House which has come through as £2500.00 and removal of the graffiti £2500.00 also, which would include an anti-graffiti coating.
- c) The quotes have been forwarded to the Council on 23rd July 2007.
- d) Two new Doors are being fitted in early August following vandalism
- e) BCTV are still looking to reassign the Lease.

10. Dates for the Diary

BAND DAY 23RD September 2007. This is subject to confirmation.

LITTER PICK 16th September 10.30 to 12.00 Meeting outside the Red House

11. Telephone Numbers

Police	0845 113 5000	Reporting of criminal incidents
ASBOH No.	0845 359 7500	Reports of anti social behaviour

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 17th September 2007. This Meeting is the Annual General Meeting of the Group and will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre.