

Red House Park Friends Group
10th November 2008
Meeting Notes

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 7.45p.m.

1. Present

Bill Gunn	Ray Wheatley SMBC
Christine Horton	Sonia Vaughan
Mark Sanders	Julie Neil
Jean Jones	Steve Neil
Cllr Tony Ward	Kay Allcock
Eileen Wilkinson	

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Keith Wild.

In response to an article in the paper, fifty people turned up thinking the meeting was about the Red House.. Tony Ward explained that it was not possible to hold the meeting at this venue because it was not big enough and there were no officers from the Council present. He promised to arrange another meeting the date of which will be notified through the newspapers.

3. Chairmans' Report

BG read out a letter from Mark Sanders giving his resignation as Secretary due to home commitments.

The Group are grateful to Mark for the contribution he has made and all the help he has given BG reported that he had been told that there was still £49,000.00 '106 monies' available for the use of Red House Park. Tony Ward said that he would check on this.

BG also said that he was waiting for a reply from English Heritage on the subject of the Park and the House.

4. Treasurer's Report

GC reported that the funds of the 'Friends' stood at £7966.10

5. Council Report

CH passed round an e.mail received from David Brown. He explained that he was going to put in place more security fences and a new gate on the boundary fence by 'Jumping Jacks' and fence the area behind the conifer hedge. The areas he detailed will give some protection to the Jumping Jacks Buildings and also some protection to the House

He also said that he would let the Group have some outline proposals for consideration to improve the car park surface and the front of the changing rooms through additional investment.

The Group welcome these proposals and also the new tennis courts and changes in the play areas.

6. Forthcoming Events.

The arrangements are in hand for the Christmas Fayre on the 21st December. We are cleared for public liability as long as one member of the council is present and we hope that will be Ray. Ray has also offered to loan two Gazebos. Various members are looking into the possibility of providing music in the shape of a choir or CDs. We do need people to donate mince pies to go with the tea and coffee.

Fun Day – Jean reported that the remaining money has now come in. 'Sea and Sand' have

paid us £100.00 and the 'Fair' £400.00

7. Park Environment

The Roses have been ordered but there is a mistake on the original price given – it was for one bed not two. The new price will be £740.00 for 380 roses

The Acacia Trees have now been delivered and it just remains for a decision to be made where they are to be planted. Ray suggested one should be planted near the site of the one that has died and the other should be planted around the house. They are specimen trees so need to be positioned where they can be clearly seen.

Mark reported that the details of the sign for around the pool have now been agreed and it will be fixed onto the railings.

The cost of a new bench to replace the one that was destroyed by fire will be £205.00 for a 6 ft. bench and £225.00 for an 8 ft. plus £65.00 for delivery.

Security – Although it was reported in the papers that there had been less trouble in the park vandalism is certainly on the increase. There have been burnt out cars, and one of the seats on the new swings has already been burnt. The graffiti was cleaned off the House and the notice boards a few weeks ago by members of the 'Friends' and it is now as bad as ever.

The Group felt that if the Park was fenced all the way round there would not be so much vandalism, they are going to try and find out how much this would cost.

8. Any Other Business

CH e.mailed Anthony Lewis if it would be a good idea to invite people who had any pictures or memories of the Red House to send them to us. Anthony replied that he does get the odd story. We need to decide what we want to do with the material he has gathered. He says he plans to create a little historical booklet with this information. If we could put that together with the leaflet that Jean is planning we could produce an interesting handout that could be distributed at events and to encourage new members.

The next meeting of the 'Friends' will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 15th December 2008