

Red House Park Friends Group  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
Meeting Notes

Sarah Cross Chair opened the Meeting at 6.45p.m.

**1. Present**

Jason Cross Steve West SMBC Ray Wheatley Sonia Vaughan Bill Gunn Christine Horton Jean Jones Josh Bannister Glen and Dawn Williams Graham Carlin	Rod Craff Jackie .Ward Sandra and Harry Ashcroft Stephanie Page E Wilkinson Guy Hale Nirmah Singh PC. C. Reid PC. A Canning Edna Forrest
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**2. Apologies**

Jenny Hale  
Carol Calloway

**3. The Red House**

SC reported that on finding out that Sandwell Council were not interested in entering into talks with Mr. Edwards to lease the Red House for his Company Headquarters, BCTV were contacted and they do want to further negotiations as they are allowed to sub-let under the terms of their Lease.

Currently Mr. Edwards is having a Survey done and BCTV are taking up references. One possibility is that Mr. Edwards will lease from BCTV for five years and then negotiate a new lease with the Council so letting BCTV off the remainder of their lease, or that Mr. Edwards will sublet from BCTV for the remainder of their lease which is seventeen years.

**4. Band Concert**

The Band Concert has been booked for 15<sup>th</sup> July from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**5. Steve West updated the Group on the following –**

Roses – They have been ordered from Boningdale's at a cost of £1.78 each. They will be delivered - bare rooted – and planted in the Autumn

Acacia Tree – Two are on order at a cost of £95.00 each. Steve confirmed that the Council will pay half.

Monument – the report on the monument says that it is leaning and looks as though it is falling over. Also the structure inside is exposed. A Structural Engineer is due on site to make an

assessment which will cost £1400.00. The monument is reputed to be Princess Charlotte and to be one of only two such monuments in the country, the other being situated in Bristol. As the plaque is missing this is difficult to prove.

## **6. 106 Monies**

The residue of 106 monies is £100,000.00. the priorities are still the bottom pool although the work on this is not intended to be as extensive as the first pool. Also the additions to the play area and the tennis courts.

## **7. Police Report**

PC Canning and PC Reid reported that they have stepped up patrols and there had only been one incident of robbery within the park.

## **8. Fun Day**

Jean Jones reported on the findings of the Group that met to discuss the possibility of forming a committee and running a fun day this year. It had been decided that there were not enough people to take on the responsibility and there was not enough time to organise it properly.

However Josh Bannister said that Holy Name Youth Group were interested in running a Fun Day. The Group discussed the implications with Josh and the responsibilities and he is going to go back and discuss it with his Youth Group.. A suggestion was made that he ran a much smaller event in conjunction with the Band Day.

## **9. Park Maintenance**

The Group asked Steve and Ray why Andy who carries out the general clearing up etc. was not in the Park as much. Ray explained that the budget for Ground Care had been cut and it was now only possible for Andy to come into the park for one hour every morning. A Group will still come in to maintain the beds.

JC reported that he had put straw on the island for the swans and they were reported to be nesting there.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Guy Hale said that he and his family were moving away from the area and so he would not be able to continue as Treasurer. Sarah thanked him and Jenny for their hard work for the Group.

Graham Carlin volunteered to take up the post and he was duly appointed as Treasurer

The Next Meeting will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at the Horticultural Training Centre.