

Red House Park Friends Group
10th December 2007
Meeting Notes

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

1. Present

Graham Carlin	Ray Wheatley SMBC
Mark Sanders	Sonia Vaughan
Christine Horton	Carole Calloway SMBC
Jean Jones	
Keith Wild	

2. Apologies

Cllr. Tony Ward
Stephanie Page

3. Fun Day

The Friends agreed a meeting must be organised to plan the Fun Day . Monday 7th January was suggested. All the files have been collected from Sarah and the Fund Day Committee need to complete the necessary forms for the Council.

Graham Carlin reported that the fund of the 'Friends' stood at around £3500.00 . Bill felt that it was important to have an emergency fund in case the event could not go ahead due to bad weather. Carole suggested the committee looked at insurance or sponsorship from local shops rather than using the funds of the group. It was generally felt that insurance against bad weather would be too expensive as it has been considered before.

4. Update on Current Projects

The Pools – While work has been carried out on the second pool Bill pointed out that the swans had no food as a food supply has not built up in the first pool yet after it was drained. Local people are taking food down to the swans every day to try to help them.

The Roses – Ray reported that the roses were ready to be planted and the bed had been prepared. A date was set for 9 a.m. on the 15th December for planting.

Since the meeting three hundred and fifty roses (Floribunda Arthur Bell – yellow and scented) have been planted and we all look forward to watching them grow in the coming year.

5. The Gates

It was reported that there is an increasing problem with cars coming into the Park at the Hill Lane entrance because the gates are open and there are no bollards to stop them. During the week and weekends cars come in and park round the flower beds and on a Sunday they drive down the driveway and park near the football pitches. CH asked Carole if anything could be done because although Rangers have been seen on a Sunday trying to move them on this is not a solution and it is dangerous for people who use it as a walkway through the park with dogs and children.

Carole said that it was being looked into. A possibility might be that one half of the gates are kept locked.

6. Aims of the Friends Group

Keith felt that as new members were coming to the Meetings we need to consider the aims of the Group. Although these were decided at the start of the Group they need to be reinstated and perhaps put on the Web site. Better use of the Park facilities was also discussed.

a) Changing Rooms - CH asked Carole if there were any funds we could access to get them improved. Apparently there is unused space in the building which could be turned into more changing rooms. Keith asked if we could gain access to the building so we could all see what state they were in. Carole said she could arrange this.

b) It was also suggested that to encourage local people to use the park we could organise 'bat walks' (the last one was very successful) or a nature trail.

7. Web Site

Thanks went again to Anthony Lewis, who maintains the web site, as he took the trouble to welcome Keith to the 'Friends' offering him any help he might need via the web site. The address of the the web site has been put on the Schedule of Meeting Dates that has been put on the notice board in the Library.

8. Any Other Business

Fencing has been put round part of the pool and it seems to meet the approval of most of the people regularly going in the park.

On the first schedule of meetings that went out the 26th May has been changed to 19th May because the first date is a bank holiday. Most people concerned have already been told.

Thanks again go to Jean Jones for manning the Hut enabling the Probationers to work in the Park.

Bill informed the Group that we have no key for the Notice board in the Park so we are going to try and find a replacement or the original key.

The next meeting will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 21st January 2008 at 6.45 p.m.