

**Red House Park Friends Group**  
**14<sup>th</sup> April 2008**  
**Meeting Notes**

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

**1. Present**

Keith Wild	Win Guest
Christine Horton	PC 1880 Hardwick
Ray Wheatley SMBC	PCSO 30927 Scott
Carole Calloway SMBC	Cllr Tony Ward
Jean Jones	Stephanie Page
Graham Carlin	Jackie Ward
Mark Sanders	Eileen Wilkinson

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Steve West and Sonia Vaughan

**3. Chairman's Report**

Approval was given for minutes of the last meeting.

Bill reported that all the notice boards are now secure and we have keys to them all

BG has been in touch with English Heritage and he has received a letter from the Territorial Co-ordinator. They are looking into whether the Park can be listed as Grade 2 the same as the House. This status has to be granted by the Secretary of State.

Bill also reported on funding for the tennis courts and the monument which are detailed later in these minutes under the relevant headings.

**4. Secretary's Report**

CH asked the Group if the 'Aims' now met with everyone's approval and if so they would be copied and handed out to all new members when they come to the meeting.

Keith asked for a show of hands and they were voted acceptable by the Group.

CH also brought up the changes in the 'Constitution' and asked for advice on some of the sections that needed changing. Carole said they had a copy at the Council and would e.mail it to CH with suggestions. Carole has now done this.

CH has given Carole labels for the list of members so that the Council can send out a letter to everyone on the list asking them for their level of involvement in matters to do with the park.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Graham confirmed that monies are coming in from people who want to secure stalls and some donations from local shops. GC said that our funds stand at around £6000.00

**6. Use of the Park**

Jean mentioned the gates at Hill Lane. They are still not part closed and cars are coming into the park especially on football days. Carole said she would look into this with some urgency as it is dangerous.

Mark asked CC if there was any monies available to either include play items for the 0 to 4 year olds in the current play area or build a smaller play area for the very young children.. KW asked Carole if she could get some idea of what it would cost and perhaps get quotations so we could see if any funding would be available.

## **7. Forthcoming Events**

The Fun Day – Jean reported that all arrangements are coming together.

There are still some issues to be addressed but 'Red House on the beach' is still going ahead. CH said she would be involved with the refreshment table but we have to sort out the tea urn and the health and safety issues involved with the urn. Carole said she would give CH a number to ring for Barnford Park as they have a tea urn.

## **8. Features of the Park**

Anthea Rawlence has sent an e.mail saying that two people are interested in the house and are trying to pursue their interest with the Council, but with little success. BG mentioned that it is now fourteen months since a large number of letters were sent to The Council re the future of the House. BG said that under the heading of 'customer care' the Council had a duty to reply.

Some of the Group visited the Monument with a reporter from the newspaper. It is surrounded by rubbish and broken glass. BG said that although it has been reported that funding would be found to repair the monument he is concerned it will go somewhere else, because of the state of the monument and the disrepair it is urgent that it receives attention as soon as possible.

## **9. Park Environment**

P.C. Hardwick and P.C.S.O Scott attended the Friends Meeting . They reported the park has been reasonably quiet. It is considered a hot spot for crime with young drinkers but it is usually in the summer months which is approaching. There have been a small number of robberies in the park and the police are talking to the school to see if something can be done about these troublemakers.S.Page reported that she had seen youngsters defacing the notices and tried to contact the phone number given with no success. The police said that if people actually witnessed a crime going on they should phone 999. Carole confirmed with the police that this should be the case with all the parks.

Graffiti is still a major issue in the Park, there was even graffiti in the childrens play area. CC said that the Council would get that removed.

The Friends confirmed with Ray how much better the Park is looking with the flower beds tidied and the lawns cut. All of the Group do hope this can continue.

BG is concerned about the rubbish in the pools and has asked for a site visit with Steve West if this could be arranged.

A Bat Walk has been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 7.15 p.m. This will be advertised nearer the time and although discussion has taken place about charging at the event no decision has been made.

## **10. Sport and Play facilities**

Tennis courts – now that summer is coming and people want to use the tennis courts, only a few of them can be used. Steve West said that the Council would repair nets where the posts were still there but BG said he had come across funding that might be available to repair them from the Waste Recycling Environmental Limited. He asked Carole about the form that needed completing and to be sent in by 31<sup>st</sup> May 08. Carole said she would look into it

Changing Rooms – The question of repairs to the changing rooms was brought up again. On looking back through paperwork the group were informed that one thousand pounds had been put aside annually for ten years for repairs to the changing rooms and it was stated at this time that the money could not be used for anything else - is this still the case. If this is not correct, is there any funding that we could obtain for the Changing Rooms As the park is used so much by young people playing football they are a priority as they are in such disrepair.

The next meeting will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
at 6.45 p.m.