

Red House Park Friends Group
7th July 2008
Meeting Notes

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

1. Present

Bill Gunn	Sunish Patel SMBC
Keith Wild	Eileen Wilkinson
Christine Horton	Ray Wheatley SMBC
Mark Sanders	Jean Jones
Graham Carlin	Sonia Vaughan

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Ward

3. Chairman's Report

Bill reported that he thought it was in the interests of the Group that we joined the NCVO but there are certain conditions that we do not meet at the moment and the Group need to sort these out.

4. Secretary's Report

CH reported that since the last meeting David Brown had been in touch and e.mailed the schedule of jobs that the Council planned to do within the next twelve months.

Sunish Patel attended the meeting to give the Group more details of these plans and these are detailed below.

Now that the funday is over CH will follow up the Constitution and the amendments. Anthony Lewis has been in touch with CH to see if there is an e.mail address or phone number that can be put on the website. Mark Sanders said that he had created a new e.mail address for the Friends and this could be put on the website and Mark is willing to answer any messages or forward them on as required.

5. Treasurer's Report

Graham reported that the funday generated £1525.28 surplus funds. An account will be produced of the final figures when all the income and costs are finalised. Graham said that in future fundays it is worth noting that arrangements should be made to collect monies half way through the day not leave it all to the end

6.Council Report

Sunish Patel the Project Office from SMBC attended the meeting to give the Friends an up to date report on the jobs to be carried out during the next twelve months

The Monument – as a result of the Structural Engineer's report it is estimated the monument will cost £15,000.00 plus to repair and it will take around six weeks. We are assured it will be done this year.

The Play Area – Sunish said the area would be rehashed to make room for the new set of swings. The Council were looking at installing a new set of four flat seats for the older children and possibly three cradles and a flat for the toddlers. The area would have to be replanted and would cost an estimated £8500.00. This is planned for the next twelve months.

The Tennis Courts – There was a lot of discussion in the Group with Sunish about these tennis courts. It was felt that we could save money by not re-surfacing them but it was important to keep the five courts if possible as the Group felt they would all be used, at the moment the use is very limited because of the state of the courts. The courts need new fencing, new posts and nets and Sunish said two pedestrian gates and two maintenance gates would be needed if we keep all five courts. It all depends on the funding how much of this can be done.

Since the meeting I have had an e.mail from David Brown who makes the following points. 'Replacing the perimeter fencing including the support posts, along with replacing the broken and missing tennis net straining support posts will require areas of the tarmac to be excavated. The surrounding kerb edges are deteriorating and ideally need replacing. The actual cost of tarmacing all the tennis courts and then remarking has to be balanced against patch tarmacing areas and given the equipment and labour will be on site to do the patching work, to not do all the courts will be a missed opportunity'

For the reasons above David Brown suggests surfacing all the tennis courts while the equipment and labour are on site and also it will give the overall finish a much higher profile and better surface for play.

The Group discussed the state of the Changing Rooms with Sunish and he suggested we sought advice from the SCVO to see if voluntary funding would be available to refurbish them

7. Events

It was felt by the whole group that the funday had been a success. As always there were not enough helpers but the feed back from stallholders and the general public was how much everyone had enjoyed it. We were of course grateful that the weather had stayed mainly dry.

Keith made a vote of thanks to Jean Jones and Mark Sanders for all the work they did especially in the early planning stages of the Funday and throughout the project

We have also received a lot of comments on how nice the Red House looked on the weekend of the Funday so CH thanked Ray and SMBC for the work they had done in clearing up the park

CH also wanted to thank Christine and Katrina for their help on the tea stall and thanks to all the people who made cakes for us to sell on the day .Thanks also to Dawn and Glen and everyone else who helped us put on the Funday.

8. Forthcoming Events

17th August 2008 – Band Day 2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m

3rd September 2008 – Bat Walk 7.15 p.m.

The Events Committee are meeting on the 21st July 2008 to discuss further events in the Park. The date of a Car Boot is still to be confirmed.

9. Park Environment

The Group have asked Ray to make enquiries about varieties and numbers of roses for two beds. We would like to plant them up in the Autumn as last year.

Ray confirmed that the Acacia Trees had been re-ordered

The Bat boxes have been ordered and Ray said he will put them up.

10. The House

David Brown informed the Group via an e.mail to CH that he is aware that the House has deteriorated further in recent weeks and he has asked the Council's Corporate Property Services to produce a report. There appears to be no other interest in the House from the adverts.

Bill reported to the Group that he now had 2802 signatures from the general public to keep the House and he is still waiting to hear back from English Heritage after his communication with them.

The next meeting will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 18th August 2008 at 6.45 p.m.