

The Red House Park Friends Group
18th August 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
Jackie	

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Ward and Carole Calloway

3. Chairman's Report

Bill reported that the Council said a decision was about to be taken re the Red House. The Council asked the Friends Group if they would be willing to take it on. However the Group reiterated that this is not an option that they can consider.

The Council have been informed of the latest problems with the roof, which has been inspected by a roofing contractor. He reported that the 'felt' has been lifted around the house and the lead has been ripped away. Also lead has been removed from around the bottom of the chimney stacks and damaged approximately 30 large roof tiles. The repair work needed will cost thousands and involve several days work. The roofing contractor has said that the roof is a danger to the public passing below and it would be wise to fence off the area around the House as a safeguard to the public.

4. Secretary's Report

Sunish said that he would obtain a phone number of the SCVO who would give us advice about the Constitution. CH has received these details and will contact them.

5. Treasurer's Report

The balance in the account is £7614.49. The Fun Day took gross income of £2774.28 with expenditure of £951.29 leaving a net profit of £1822.99 for the Day. It was pointed out that the books should be audited before the A.G.M. Keith said he knew someone who would do this for us. I understand it has now been done and the statement of account will be ready for the A .G. M.

6. Council Report

Sunish gave the following report on behalf of the Council.

Tennis Courts – there will be five working courts, The whole surface will be tarmaced there will be two maintenance gates and line markings and there will be MUGA type fencing. Sunish said that a quote of £40,000 has been accepted and work would start around the 15th September 08

7. Events

Bat Walk on Wednesday 3rd September 2008. An advert has gone into the papers advertising the event. Tony Potter will attend to represent the Council which is a requirement of the insurance.

Car Boot Sale – The Council have said that it cannot be fitted in before Christmas.

Christmas - It is planned to hold a Christmas bazaar – 'Santa in the Park' with stalls around the flower beds. The date suggested is the 21st December 2008 12.30p.m. to 3.30.p.m. There will be a Father Christmas and Elves.

8. The Park

Two rose beds are planned, one pink and one orange and Ray is going to look into the issue of the Acacia Tree that has been ordered and paid for.

The Bat Boxes have been delivered

Signs around the park giving details of items of interest i.e. the ducks, the mulberry tree etc. Mark is going to get a quote which I know he has now got and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

It was also commented that the rubbish bins situated in the bowling green are not emptied. It is a shame that no-one wishes to use it as a bowling green and it is still being used as a football pitch.

There is a lot of graffiti on the house, the notice boards and in the Park generally. The Group are going to have a 'Clean Up Day' which is going to take place on Sunday 14th September and will start at 10.a.m.

9. Other Business

Mark wondered if it would be possible to ask people to send in their photos and share their experiences of the Red House and the Park. We could do this through the Website.

10. Annual General Meeting

The next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting and nominations are invited for the principal positions which can be sent in before the meeting.

The next meeting will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 29th September 08