

Red House Park Friends Group
29th September 2008
Annual General Meeting

These minutes also incorporate an 'Events Meeting' on 22nd Sept. 08

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
Jean Jones	Helen Williams
Graham Carlin	PCSO Linda Burn
Jackie Ward	PCSO Adam Scot
Sonia Vaughan	Tony Fowler

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Ward , Carole Calloway, Sadie Smith, Mary Wilson and Mark Sanders

Before retiring Bill thanked everyone for all their efforts in the previous twelve months. He also thanked Ray and other council members who have helped us in the past year.

All officers duly retired.

Sunish Patel took the meeting and asked for nominations for the various offices.

Nominations were sought and the following people were voted in to fill the posts as below.
Christine Horton asked if her post could be split and she would take on the position of Minute Secretary with Mark Sanders taking the job of Secretary.

Bill Gunn	Chairman
Keith Wild	Vice Chairman
Mark Sanders	Secretary
Christine Horton	Minute Secretary
Graham Carlin	Treasurer

3. Chairman's Report

Bill reiterated the aims of the Group and said that it was a non-political group whose main aim was to protect and promote the park and the Red House. Perhaps during the following year we could endeavour to get the local school children involved in various ways and hopefully give them more pride in the park and avoid the constant vandalism that is taking place.

Bill asked for approval to accept the Minutes of the last Meeting

4 Secretary's Report

CH said that her aim was to start a new database giving details of all members and build up a database of contacts i.e. people that are involved in the funday and useful organisations.

CH is also in the process of updating the Constitution.

5. Treasurer's Report

K.W. said that he had gone through the accounts which had now been audited. He thought that perhaps they could be presented giving more clarity between the two accounts.

Also it should be remembered for future events that cash collected should be banked quicker with more members getting involved in the banking. Graham reminded the group that more thought should be given to security issues when collecting cash from the stallholders

There is still money to come from the organisers of the 'Fair' and the 'Sea and Sand'. Tony Potter is currently on holiday but as soon as he returns the 'Friends' will consult him about letters or invoices that should be sent out.

6. Council Report

Sunish Patel reported that the new swings were going up in the Play Area. Four flats for the older children and two cradle and one flat for the toddler play area. The gates are going to be changed so that maintenance gates will give access to vehicles into the play area. The tarmacing is being done, and then the fencing. All the posts and nets will be new. The maintenance gates in the tennis courts will be better sited also. There was discussion about a litter bin being provided but it has to be sited outside the courts.

Sunish assured the Group that after the courts are finished which weather permitting should be about three weeks, work would start on the Monument.

7. The Park

The Group asked about the Jayshaw Avenue entrance which floods when there has been a lot of rain. Ray said that he had requested a drain be fitted in the entrance.

Mark has obtained a quote for the notice that would be placed round the Pools giving details of the wild life. The Notice would cost £1080.00 from a company that also provides notices for Sandwell Valley. The Group voted to accept the quote and order the Notice. They have also voted to accept the quote for the roses which will cost £337.50 for two beds. Ray is going to order them and delivery should be December or January. The Acacia Tree was again brought up and it was pointed out that it is now a year since it was ordered and paid for.

8. Security

PCSO Linda Burn and Adam Scot came to the meeting and reported that although robberies are down there is trouble from gangs. The group of police patrolling the area is small and they are finding it difficult to be 'in the right place at the right time' to stop the vandalism and the trouble. Although the schools are staggering the times the children leave this is not helping the situation. The Police reported that they are involved in talks with the schools and are trying to find solutions by consulting the head teachers and getting involved with the children. Kate Abbott the Head Teacher of the Grant Maintained School has suggested a meeting outside the Red House with the Friends to explore all possibilities.

9. Forthcoming Events

A date has been reserved for the next Funday which is 28th June 2009. However a decision has yet to be made as to whether we will hold a Funday next year and if we have enough people who are willing to organise it. An alternative would be to have several small events. KW suggested one idea of having a 'Tree of Light' in a store at Christmas where people paid for a light on the tree which would bear a dedication to someone. Also we could make more of band day and have a Car Boot.

Christmas Fayre – 21st December 12.30 to 3.30 p.m.

So far two stalls have been booked – Crocks and Curios and Jewellery. They will be asked to provide a prize for the tombola instead of being charged for the stall.

A charge of one pound would be made to see Father Christmas

A suggestion has been made that we have a face painter who would paint the children's faces free and he would be paid by the 'Friends'.

Attempts will be made to see if any Choirs would be interested in singing at the Fayre.

Father Christmas would possibly sit in the entrance to the House. As long as access to Father

Christmas is open for everyone to see, people involved do not have to be CRB checked.
It is suggested that we give the children sweets as a present and these would be wrapped appropriately.
We would also offer tea, coffee, hot chocolate and mince pies. CH suggested that the 'Friends' buy a tea urn similar to the one we borrowed from Keith at the Fun day because we need two urns.
We need at least one gazebo and Ray says he can provide this.
The possibility of taking and charging for photos was discussed.
Adverts – We could place adverts for the events in local schools and nurseries.
The next Events Meeting will take place on Monday 20th October 08

10. Any Other Business

The Group commented on the rubbish left on the football pitches after the games. Could it not be part of their contract to clear up after their games.

The next meeting of the 'Friends' will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 10th November 2008