

Red House Park Friends Group  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2009  
Meeting Notes

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 7.30 p.m

**1. Present**

Bill Gunn	Ray Wheatley SMBC
Christine Horton	Graham Carlin
Keith Wild	Helen Williams
Jean Jones	Sunish Patel SMBC
Sonia Vaughan	Jackie Ward
Eileen Wilkinson	David & Shirley Hosell

The meeting started later as several members met Ray Wheatley SMBC outside the Changing Rooms so that the 'Friends' could see for themselves the state of the Buildings and the facilities.

**2. Apologies.**

Samantha Barrett

**3. Chairmans' Report**

The Minutes were accepted and Bill asked if there were any matters arising. There were not. Bill said that the 'Friends' needed to become a member of the SCVO and he required an up to date 'Constitution' CH said she would look into this and Sunish promised to let us know who could deal with our queries on the amendments to the Constitution we already have.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Graham reported that we have paid for the tombolas for the Funday at a cost of £223.25. Also Sunish acknowledged receipt of £290.00 for the replacement bench.

**5. Secretary's Report**

CH asked about the Mulberry Tree. An enquiry has been made on the website as to the age of this tree. Ray reported that it was planted in 1605 and it is the fifth oldest tree in the country.

**6. Council Report**

Jean Jones pointed out that the Green Play Rangers had been in the park on the dates stated but unfortunately because of the lack of posters and advertising local parents did not know about the play schemes.

**Outline Management and Development Plan**

Several members have read the above draft plan and made comments about its content. All are encouraged that the aim is to achieve 'Green Flag Status' CH asked Sunish about requests to plant a tree in the park or pay for a bench with a plaque on it. Sunish said he contacted the people concerned and discussed their requirements and the cost. Within guidelines these requests can be granted

**Tennis Courts** – All the Group were very disappointed that vandalism on the new Courts had resulted in one of the courts being put out of action because the net had been cut. Also Sunish said he would ask the Contractors to re-seed the area around the Courts.

**The Monument** - There is a query as to whether the fencing round the 'memorial' is included in the specification for repair. Bill pointed out to Sunish that it is very important that the fence is repaired and if possible increased in height. Sunish reported that the monument would be a stone colour.

**Samantha Barrett** is unable to attend the meeting and report on the 'Natural Play Sites' Red House Park has been identified to receive one of these sites for ages 4 to 12 and hopefully Samantha will be able to attend our next meeting to discuss the details of this Play Area.

#### **7. Use of the Park – Changing Rooms**

After members of the Group had visited the Changing Rooms it was felt that we may be able to apply to the Community Spaces Open Grants Programme that finishes in 2011. David Hosell agreed with Sunish that the Council would get quotes and estimates from builders for all the work that needed to be done.

The Group also felt that the Footballers who use the facilities and will use them if we can get the improvements done could be made more responsible for the state that the facilities are left in.

#### **8. The Environment**

With regards to details of the trees and birds in the Park going on the website. CH asked Ray if he could consider how we could put together this information. Also Eileen who is on the committee of the RSPB said she would ask if there was any way the RSPB could do a survey of the bird life in the park.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

We ran out of time to discuss the 'leaflet' and this will be discussed at the next meeting. Eileen also reported to the Group that her neighbours wanted it known that they thought the Park had improved so much recently both in appearance and facilities.

**The next meeting of the 'Friends' will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 6.45 p.m.**