

Red House Park Friends Group
1st June 2009
Meeting Notes

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 6.45 p.m

1. Present

Bill Gunn	Ray Wheatley SMBC
Christine Horton	David Brown SMBC
Sonia Vaughan	David Hosell
Jean Jones	Graham Carlin
Tony Fowler	Julie and Steve Neil
Eileen Wilkinson	Mary Harding
Mark Sanders	

2. Apologies.

Keith Wild

3. Chairmans' Report

The Minutes were read of the last meeting and accepted. There were no matters arising. Bill reported that the form has been sent off to join the SCVO with a copy of the Constitution.

4. Treasurer's Report

Graham said he had nothing to report. All his queries were to do with the Fun Day and will be discussed at the Events Meeting which takes place after this General Meeting.

5. Secretary's Report

CH reported that the Constitution had been passed by the Council and two copies have now been signed. One has been given to the Council for their records and the other will be copied and sent out as required.

6. Council Report and Use of the Park

Entrance to Jeyshaw – Bill brought to David's attention the flooding at the Jeyshaw entrance to the Park. It is impassable when we have had heavy rain because there is no drain only a soakaway and Bill wondered if there was any funding that we could access to get it repaired.

At the last meeting the Group asked for estimates and costs for refurbishing the Changing rooms. We asked David if these estimates were available.

DB advised us that all 106 monies have now been allocated. The last monies that were spent on the changing rooms paid for a replacement boiler and new shower heads in the showers. The Group asked DB if he knew of any other funding that we could access for the Changing Rooms.

DB said he would look into the costs of re-decoration inside and out and improving the parking arrangements – i.e. re-surfacing the car park and making that entrance look better.

The Monument – DB reported that tenders for the monument had been sent to three Contractors on 7th May 09 and were due back on the 5th June 09. The Contract will

start in mid July and completion is expected by mid August 09. The Group were assured that the plaque would be restored and the railings would be high enough to stop people climbing over.

Local Signs – It was pointed out by Mark that there are no signs for the Park in the surrounding area so visitors to the area would not know of its existence. DB said that any signs (called ‘brown signs’) would have to be paid for by the ‘Friends’

The Group briefly discussed the ‘Management Plan’ with DB. He felt that it will give basis for external funding. It also sets out a maintenance plan which is important. Our goal has to be ‘Green Flag Status’ and in order to achieve that an improvement in the entrances to the park.

7. The Environment

The ‘Friends’ are very upset by the vandalism to the Acacia Tree. It has only just been purchased and planted and was starting to grow. We hope to raise funds to buy another tree.

DB explained that the Urban Forestry Unit will do a survey of the trees in the park and identify work that has to be done on a ‘traffic light system’ DB said that the ‘Friends’ would have a copy of this survey.

The Group are going to ask Malcolm Oakes at Sandwell Valley if he could organise a survey of the bird life in the park.

8. Any Other Business

All arrangements are going ahead for the Fun Day and we just hope the weather is kind to us. To make things easier for us on the day the Group asked DB if it was possible to get access to water. He said he would look into it.

The next meeting of the ‘Friends’ will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 13th July 09 at 6.45 p.m.