

Red House Park Friends Group
5th October 2009
Annual General Meeting

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 6.45 p.m

1. Present

Bill Gunn	Ray Wheatley SMBC
Christine Horton	Carole Calloway SMBC
Jackie Ward	Julie and Steve Neil
Graham Carlin	

2. Apologies.

Jean Jones, Keith Wild and Sunish Patel

3. Chairmans' Report

The Minutes were approved and there were no matters arising. Bill said that an article had gone into the Express and Star asking for new members The SCVO have awarded us £600.00 towards the bat detectors. They must be purchased before June 2010. Together with a contribution from the 'Friends' of £500.00 we will be able to buy fifteen bat detectors and two spotlights.

4. Treasurers Report

The books are being audited

5. Secretary's Report

CH said that she had nothing to report

6. Use of the Park

The Pathfinder Scheme – Talks are due to take place on an area of 'Natural Play' in the Park mainly for 5 to 13 yr olds.

7. Park Environment

CH said that the area around the pools has become very overgrown and Ray explained that there was no allowance in the budget for this work. Ray said that he had included it as a project for the Government Incentive Scheme to get youths back to work.

The Group asked if they could see the Survey that has been done on the Trees Carole has since e.mailed me and said she is trying to get a copy.

The Rose Bed has been dug over for planting and Ray is going to order four hundred white 'iceberg' roses for the one bed and thirty roses to replace the stolen ones from the other beds. The cost will be £795.50 and they should be received ready for planting in December or January 2010

9. Council Report and Environment

The Monument has been vandalised and the Council are aware of this. Also there are cracks that have appeared. Carole said that the Surveyors that have done the refurbishment are aware of the faults and the work is still under guarantee.

Bill asked Carole about the Bat Panel that Mark Sanders is preparing. Carole explained that the Council are reviewing their policies on signage so Sunish

has asked us to put the Panel on hold for the moment

CH referred to the letter received from Sunish explaining that the Council will tidy up the fenced area at the entrance to the car park. Carole confirmed that this is in hand in the near future. Also that the bins are to be ordered, one bin to replace the bin that was damaged on the Funday and one bin to be placed outside the tennis courts, the exact position has not yet been decided.

The Group mentioned to Carole that the area around the pools was becoming flooded and therefore slippery for people to walk on. Carole said that John Ashcroft was investigating although Ray felt that some of the problems are due to springs.

10. Forthcoming Events

On December 6th the Father Christmas Event will take place at 12.30 to 15.30 p.m. Arrangements are continuing for the event with an agreed budget of three hundred pounds. A charge of one pound will be made to see Father Christmas and a present will be given to each child. Refreshments will be provided and a request for mince pies to be donated on the day. It is planned that the Guides will run a workshop for children.

11. Any Other Business

Julie asked Carole about the fact that when she visited the Sandwell Show she noticed that in the written information and brochures there was no mention of Red House Park Carole pointed out that we must notify David Brown of forthcoming events so that he can put the information in publications that are distributed around Sandwell .

Julie confirmed that she has now received the PDF version of the booklet, so it will now be much easier to get copies printed and also the leaflet. Julie and Steve are going to get some costs for the Group to consider.

The next meeting of the 'Friends' Events Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on 9th November 2009 at 19.15 p.m.

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training centre on 16th November 2009 at 6.45 p.m.