

Red House Park Friends Group
28th June 2010
General Meeting

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 6.45 p.m

1. Present

Bill Gunn	Keith Wild
Helen Willetts	Martin Baker
Jean Jones	Graham Jones
Sunish Patel	Mary Harding
Graham Carlin	John Ward
Ray Wheatley	Lisa Saunders
Sandra Lloyd	

2. Apologies.

Christine Horton and Steve Melia

3. Chairmans' Report

The minutes were read and approved as there were no matters arising

4. Treasurers Report

GC reported that he had not had sufficient time to sort out accurate figures for the stalls etc on the Funday. He reported that he would have full details at the next Events Meeting

5. Secretary's Report

Jean Jones took the minutes of the meeting in CH's absence.

6. Council Report

Sunish reported that emptying of the litter bins was going to be contracted out. Larger bins will be installed and it is not known if there will be more or less. There has been litter and vandalism (petty crime) by the 'zip wire area' two bins have already been replaced. LS asked if the local police attend meetings to discuss the problems in the area. There is a need for the presence of 'authority' later in the evenings. The Street Wardens finish at 10.30 p.m. The police will be attending a Neighbourhood Forum meeting at Sundial Lane Methodist Church on July 6th. SP asked if any leaflets for the Notice Boards could be given to Ray to pass to the relevant department. Sunish said that his contact number is 0121 569 3871

7. Use of the Park

A bench has been installed in the tennis area for observers and a bin is to follow. It was suggested that some of the present benches should be facing the football pitches and a bench by the house is missing.

8.. Forthcoming Events

Band Concert – 25th July 2.30 to 5 p.m.

BatWalk – Sept. 8th at 7p.m

. Funday – 28th June 2010

Sunish estimated that four thousand people attended the Fun Day. CH has had e-mails saying how much people enjoyed it. It was a pity the England Game was

played in the middle of the afternoon but that was just one of those things. CH would like to thank all the people who helped on the day and the cakes that were generously donated.

9. Park Environment and Facilities

The Group felt that more maintenance is required on the pools. Sunish is to discuss this at a 'diversity' meeting on 7th July 2010 .SP pointed out that algae on the pool at this time of year with the weather conditions we have had is normal.

Lisa to liaise with The Duke of Edinburgh Award organisation and with Mr. Lomas at Q3 in relation to B.Tech initiatives.

It was discussed whether we should have another board for habitat information for birds and the different species of trees and flowers.

The Friends Group would like it put in the Minutes how lovely the Park has looked and that they received many comments on the Funday congratulating the Parks Department for the floral displays.

It was commented on that the car park in Pages Lane is still open to pedestrians only. This is to avoid damage to the football pitches and to prevent long stay parking by non-park users.

LS is going to approach David Lloyd and SLT with a view to providing free tennis lessons

10. Council Scrutiny Meeting – 22th June 2010

At short notice representative members of the Friends Group were asked to attend this meeting and put their points of view on the future of the House. At an Events Meeting the previous evening the group discussed what was to be said. Jean Jones, Bill Gunn and Keith Wild attended the meeting. Jean had prepared a statement that was distributed at the meeting which reflected the 'Friends' hopes, fears and 'wish' list for the House and the Park. They emphasised the loss of the future potential use of the House for the community in exchange for a room and a kitchen within the buildings that are now the Changing Rooms. Both Keith Wild and Sadie Smith described these premises as being the size of 'two garages'. Keith Wild asked what the perimeter fence round the House was to be. It would appear that no thought has been given to this. Assurances were given that the external façade of the House and the gardens and play areas were not endangered. Sadie Smith asked for a time limit of events and assurances that the builders would not be allowed to deal with the easier aspects of building and 'run out of funds' for the House and Changing Rooms. K.W sited the case of Great Barr Hall.

It would seem that the change of direction from refurbishing the changing rooms to utilising part of the latter into a community area was dependent upon sale of the House. The Friends were not aware of this. The Chair John Edwards asked the Friends what they had in mind as it had been stressed the area allocated to be insufficient but there was no time to discuss this. The Red House booklet was given to the Chair and the Cabinet Member for youth, culture etc. and it is hoped that the information provided will be read and taken into consideration when a decision is made. It would seem that at no stage was multi-occupancy discussed.

11. Any Other Business

The winning raffle ticket numbers are 123 150 322 332

The next meeting of the 'Friends' Events Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on 19th June at 7.15 p.m.

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training centre on 9th August 2010 at 6.45 p.m.

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