

Red House Park Friends Group
9th August 2010
General Meeting

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 6.45 p.m

1. Present

Bill Gunn	Janita Embury
Christine Horton	Tony Ward
Steve Melia	Martin Baker
Jean Jones	Graham Carlin
Ray Wheatley SMBC	Sandra Lloyd
Sunish Patel SMBC	Jackie Ward
Helen Willetts	

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Rebecca Peebles a PCSO with the police.

3. Chairmans' Report

The Minutes were approved and there were no matters arising
Bill reported that he had received a letter from the Council explaining the outcome of the petition received from the people of Great Barr. It said that Cabinet Members are mindful of the investigations undertaken by Officers to establish alternative uses for the property, but as it is still vacant Cabinet Members have approved the sale of the Red House, but under strict conditions that the structural integrity of the property is protected and the house is used for residential purposes. The derelict former play group building, squash court and toilets will be demolished to give the house a better setting within the park. The letter said that Members of the Cabinet have taken into account our petition and the need for the people of Great Barr to have community facilities in the Park which they say can be provided within the Changing Rooms Building.

4. Treasurers Report

Graham reported that the Fun Day produced a profit, the exact figures will be available to all members when the figures have been audited for the Annual General Meeting. CH made the comment that the funds now available should be spent on something for the Park. Bill Gunn reminded the Group that funds must be kept in reserve in case an event was rained off and certain costs would still have to be met.

5. Secretary's Report

CH reported to the meeting that PCSO Rebecca Peebles had contacted the Friends to say that she would like to attend the meetings in future but was unable to attend this meeting. She has however sent a report that CH will read out. Patrols in the Park have been increased and Council Wardens have been informed of the arson and robberies that have been taking place. They have conducted plain clothes patrols with some success. Although they do not have any evidence at this stage they are in possession of names of people they think are involved in the arson attacks. Also after speaking to C.I.D they believe one offender has been identified for the robberies and given more information this person will be arrested. Rebecca is based at West Bromwich Police Station on 0485 113 5000 ext. 7911 6641

CH also reported that she had been given the name of the printers that had been approached re. the history booklet and the pamphlet. The Friends have accepted the

quote and CH said she would proceed with getting the printing done. Anthony Lewis has been extremely helpful in providing the printers with the corrected version of the history booklet in the format they need.

6. Council Report

Sunish reported that the Council are very concerned about the arson attacks in the Park and he was pleased the police are making extra patrols and hopefully will be able to find and charge the people who are responsible.

On the subject of investing money into the park Sunish asked Jean Jones to explain an idea that she has had about the Park. In Perry Hall Park there is an excess of fish that can be taken to other parks in the area. Sunish is seeking advice from the various environmental agencies into whether the pools in Red House Park are suitable and also the cost involved in transporting them and introducing the fish into the pools.

Sunish reported that the football starts on 22nd August 2010. Friends asked if it was possible to make the football teams more responsible for collecting the litter after their games.

CH asked Sunish about the notice re Bats that was suggested more than twelve months ago but was shelved by the Council. Can this project go ahead now. Sunish said he would look into it.

7. Use of the Park

The Band Day was a big success with a very good turnout.

8.. Forthcoming Events

BatWalk – Sept. 8th at 7p.m

Discussion took place about whether we run a Christmas Fair . This will be discussed in more detail at the Events Meeting on 23rd August 2010. The dates suggested are 5th or 12th December 2010.

9. Park Environment and Facilities

Bill asked about the need for maintenance around the pools. It has become so overgrown that some of the paths are disappearing.

The Friends brought Sunish's attention to that fact that the bin by the MUGA has disappeared which is an area that attracts a lot of rubbish. There is also a bin needed at the Newton Road entrance and also the Tennis Courts. The 'Friends' observed that the bench near the tennis courts is well used.

10. 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 23rd August at 7.00 p.m.

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 20th September 2010 at 6.45 p.m.