



Red House Park Friends Group
17th January 2011
General Meeting

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 19.00

1. Present

Bill Gunn (BG)
Keith Wild (KW)
Christine Horton (CH)
Lisa Ingram (LI)
Graham Carlin (GC)
Sunish Patel SMBC (SP)
Sandra Lloyd (SL)
Mark Sanders (MS)

2. Apologies.

. Apologies were received from Tony Ward, Steve Melia and Anthony Lewis via LI

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

- LI queried use of term “business like” approach to funding from AOB of last meeting. It was explained that this meant that more advantage will need to be taken of external funding opportunities.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising further to those to be covered by later items.

5. Chair’s Report

- BG produced an updated plan for the development of the house showing the extent of grounds to be use. LI will contact Alison Fowler regarding an update and the possibility of convening a public meeting.
- There are several prizes left over from the Christmas tombola inc pub meals, hairdressing vouchers etc. Agreed that these would either be put forward to the next event or a small raffle carried out by the committee.
- There will be a Great Barr and Yew Tree Community Forum meeting held at Sundial Lane Methodist Church on 31st Jan. BG and CH will attend.

6. Treasurer’s Report

- CH confirmed that a profit of £641 was made from the Santa in the Park event. It was agreed that this was an excellent event and that increased advertising in the run up had contributed to the success.
- CH stated that currently a balance of £8173 held by the group with £5354 in the deposit account and £2819 in the current account. This is presently earning a very low rate of interest. CH asked for approval to investigate transfer to another bank. It was agreed that CH would look into this.
- MS asked for funds of £78 to purchase additional bird boxes for the park. This was agreed.



7. Secretary's Report

- Letters to the Manager at Somerfield and the donors requested have been done and sent..
- Briefing notes are now being received from the Council regarding updates to the park and house development. CH asked for these to be forwarded on receipt.
- The most recent external funding bulletin has been reviewed but no appropriate opportunities identified. LI will ask for these to be sent direct to her via e-mail from now on.
- Anthony Lewis has now set up e-mail addresses for Treasurer and Secretary. LI will forward details to CH.
- MS asked if ID badges could be provided to committee members, LI will draft for approval..
- LI will arrange for distribution of photography competition leaflets to local secondary schools..

8. Council Report

- The monthly working group established by the Wildlife Trust has been successful. A re-start date is awaited following the Xmas/New Year break.
- A new gate has now been installed at the Monksfield Avenue entrance.
- The greenhouse on the Hill Lane site is to be hand dismantled.
- 4 new litter bins have been placed on order, this includes the one funded by the Friends, SP confirmed that no provision has been made for the Tennis Courts.
- SP will confirm the requirement for roses order with Ray Wheatley.

9. Use of the Park

No issues were arising.

10. Features of the Park

- BG has liaised with Banners Gate Primary School in a project relating to local monuments. Information was sent regarding the Princess Charlotte memorial.
- Golf players are still an issue in the park. Wardens are to be notified on 07850 013777 when observed.
- MS queried the location of bat boxes, Ray to be asked to confirm.

11. Park Environment

- Cleanliness is good, no major issues.

12. Sport and Play Facilities

- SP was asked to look into the cost of providing apparatus for older disabled children in the play area.
- Refurbishment of the Changing Rooms is due for completion by end of March/Early April.

13. Forthcoming Events

- It was decided that due to the level of work required and the lack of volunteers it would not be viable to hold a Funday on the scale of previous years.
- It was suggested that this be replaced by several small events with lower outlay and less organisational requirement. KW had previously suggested a "dog jog", it was agreed that this would tie in well with the Councils get fit initiative and may also be an opportunity to run a small dog show.
- It was generally agreed that some form of celebration to mark the Royal Wedding should be held in April.

- SL asked if the Band Day would take place again this year. SP will confirm.
- Bat Walk was confirmed for Weds 7th September. MS will look into possibility of group members undergoing training to lead walks. Replacement of lost bat detector was queried but it was agreed that this is not a priority
- GC suggested that for all future events a co-ordinator be appointed. This was agreed.
- Events meeting to be held Monday 7th Feb @ 7pm

13. Any Other Business

- KW's daughter is a teacher at Grove Vale school and has requested assistance with a community venture. A volunteer is required to speak to the children about the park. LI offered to do this and SP also offered to make a member of his team available. SP advised that a booking form will need to be completed.
- Jean Jones has sadly decided to resign from the committee. The friends would like to thank her for her tireless dedication since the formation of the group. Her commitment and contributions will be greatly missed.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the 'Friends' Events Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on 7th February 2011 at 7 p.m.

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on 28th February 2011 at 7 p.m.