



Red House Park Friends Group
11th April 2011
General Meeting

Bill Gunn - Chair opened the Meeting at 19.00

1. Present

Bill Gunn (BG)
Lisa Ingram (LI)
Graham Carlin (GC)
Sandra Lloyd (SL)
Ray Wheatley (RW)
Sunish Patel (SP)

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Christine Horton (CH), Mark Sanders (MS), Keith Wild (KW), Steve Melia (SM), and Tim Austin (TA).

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed and approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

- Leftover vouchers from Santa in the Park have been donated to local deserving members of the community.
- TA has updated that there have been no reports of ASB since the last meeting, however any new are to be reported via hotline on 0345 113 5000 Ext 79116370 as call volumes are low in comparison to anecdotal evidence.
- TA is also keen to instigate pro-active links with young persons using the park and asked the group for any suggestions – SP stated that in other parks a “Meet the Sergeant” event has been held in the park to allow the public to meet community policing teams. LI will suggest to TA.

5. Chair’s Report

- Rose bed has now been planted. BG expressed thanks to all of those who attended.
- BG asked if the group could look into purchased conifers to replace those damaged by vandalism – RW will obtain prices.
- BG asked if Community Payback team could be contacted ref painting of fencing at Pages Lane gate. SP suggested that this should be deferred until completion of changing room refurb.

6. Secretary’s Report

- PSCO Becky Peebles has contacted ref future events. Informed that at present we have nothing planned. – [Post meeting note – Becky contacted me to suggest a “Doggy Type” event with attendance from RSPCA and local dog charities etc. This may tie in with “Dog Jog” event previously discussed. LI to liaise with Becky and raise at next meeting.](#)



- Potential funding opportunity received from Council for the “Big Tree Plant” event. This may be a way to fund replacement of vandalised trees. SP suggested contact Mavis Hughes at Sandwell Council.

7. Treasurer’s Report

CH sent apologies – no matters arising for this meeting.

8. Council Report

- Work to changing rooms is ongoing.
- Litter bins have now been installed .
- Football goalposts have now been taken down ready for the cricket season – pitches will be used by local league.
- GC queried when demolition of outbuildings will take place – RW confirmed that this is scheduled to begin after Easter.

9. Use of the Park

- SP will provide further information on inclusive play equipment

10. Features of the Park

No issues were arising.

11. Park Environment

- SP was asked for an update on the Bat sign – this issue is still ongoing
- SP is also still awaiting a date for installation of bird boxes, due to nesting season being underway this is not urgent.
- There have been no further reports of damage to trees in the last few weeks however anyone witnessing damage taking place should contact either the ASB hotline or the Park Rangers on 07850 013777.
- Summer opening and closing times for gates are now in force
- With the recent mild spell an increase in litter has been noted, there are also issues with infrequent emptying of litter bins. SP explained that this is now under contract to Serco, any problems can be reported to Litterline on 0845 349 1901
- SP will pass our details to Big Spring Clean organisers.

12. Sport and Play Facilities

- Cricket season is now beginning and pitches will be used by Sandwell League.
- Refurbishment of the Changing Rooms is ongoing.
- The tennis courts are well used and well kept at present.
- Fundraising for Inclusive Paly Equipment

13. Forthcoming Events

- LI to discuss dog event with PSCO Becky Peebles
- Bat walk to go ahead

14. Any Other Business

- BG was presented with a framed print of the Red House and an engraved tankard to mark his recent 80th Birthday and in appreciation of his contribution to the group.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 23rd May 2011 at 7 p.m.