



Red House Park Friends Group
4th July 2011
General Meeting

Bill Gunn - Chair opened the Meeting at 19.00

1. Present

Bill Gunn (BG)
Keith Wild (KW)
Lisa Ingram (LI)
Graham Carlin (GC)
Christine Horton (CH)
Ray Wheatley (RW)
Sunish Patel (SP)
Sandra Lloyd (SL)
Sadie Smith (SS)
Tony Ward (TW)
David Hosell (DH)
Shirley Hosell (SH)
Lin Jenks (LJ)
Mark Sanders (MS)
John Haines (JH)

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Jennie Dhanjal and Martin Hewitt

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed and approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

- None

5. Chair's Report

- BG asked RW to confirm price to purchase conifers so that this order can be agreed and placed in good time for planting in Autumn/Winter.
- BG queried installation of bird boxes SP will chase this up with Sandwell street lighting dept.

6. Secretary's Report

- Doggy day has been confirmed for Sunday 21st August. Ongoing progress is good and a further events meeting is being held on Mon 11th July.
- LI asked TW to assist in judging of Dog Show again, TW kindly agreed

7. Treasurer's Report

- CH asked that group agree prizes for Photography comp – Decided on 1 x £5 prize for U7's with 1 x £10 and 1 x £5 for Over 16's. Great Barr Photographic Society generously made a donation towards these prizes.



- SP asked whether invoice for the installation of new bin had been received by CH. CH has not seen this yet, SP will chase up.

8. Council/Police Report

- Work to changing rooms is ongoing with a proposed completion date of 18th July.
- SP confirmed that stewardship of the community room will lie with the Friends. It was confirmed that this include any hiring out of the room from which the Friends may retain the revenue. The responsibility of payment of bills arising from the Community Room will lie with the Friends, cleaning and maintenance will be provided by the Council.

The Stewardship does not necessarily have to be with the friends group. It was a suggestion as this is an arrangement that we have with one of our other community rooms. Stewardship of the community room maybe best placed with the friends group and the stewardship with the changing rooms sit with the sports teams. The sports team focus of attention will be for sport changing facilities and the friends we would suggest will be more focused on use of the community room and making more use of the community rooms during the week. The cleaning will only be done once a week together with the changing rooms. Any additional cleaning work will be down to the stewardship holders of the particular areas. This enable the council to keep the building and operational costs within budget. SS suggested that the room could be used to hold councillors surgeries

- DH asked that a viewing of the room take place prior to the next general meeting. It is hoped that this can be arranged.
- Martin Hewitt has reported that there been 4 crimes in the park. In the most serious 4 youths stole a bike and mobile phone but were subsequently arrested.
- Dispersal orders are now in force and deterrent appears to be enough, in addition 6 new signs regarding police powers to confiscate alcohol have been placed in the park.

9. Use of the Park

- No issues were arising

10. Features of the Park

- The gardens are looking beautiful and RW was asked to pass on the compliments of the group to the gardener.
- DH raised concerns regarding the metal bracket fixed to the Mulberry as he believes that this has come loose and is sticking out at such an angle that it may cause serious injury to a child. There was some confusion as to whether the issue was with the tree or the bracket. Post meeting note – RW, DH and LI looked at the issue following the meeting where it was evident that the problem could be corrected without interference with the tree. The bracket has now been made safe.
- There was discussion as to potential for introducing fishing in the ponds, there were reservations about this regarding space and the cost of stocking and maintaining ponds.
- Maintenance is still required on the paths around the ponds.



11. Park Environment

- The 6 cygnets are all doing well .
- Any issues of vandalism should be reported to ASB hotline or the Park Rangers on 07850 013777.
- Replacement of conifers will take place in the Autumn
- With the recent mild spell an increase in litter has been noted, SP explained that this is now under contract to Serco, any problems can be reported to Litterline on 0845 349 1901
- 2 trees have been lost, 1 to disease and 1 following a storm, these were made safe and removed quickly.
- The floral displays in the park are looking lovely and are a credit to Ray and his team.

12. Sport and Play Facilities

- Cricket season is ongoing and pitches are being used by Sandwell League
- Refurbishment of the Changing Rooms is almost complete. Security arrangements were queried and SP stated that there will be a fenced area outside of the rooms and all doors and windows will be shuttered.
The community door and windows will have shuttering and the changing have got steel security door and glass blocks in the window. Plus the ornate fencing around part the front of the building
- The tennis courts are well used but are showing a build up of litter, it was agreed that there is a need for litter bins inside the courts. DH suggested that an approach be made to Serco for them to donate a bin. SP will look into any contractual implications of increasing the number of bins to be emptied.
- It was suggested that Sandwell Leisure Trust may be able to offer tennis coaching.

13. Forthcoming Events

- Dog Event to go ahead.
- Bat walk to go ahead
- DH may be able to provide opportunities for funding, he will update on this.

14. Any Other Business

- The group selected winners of the photography competition, these will be notified by JH.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next Events Meeting will be held on Mon 8th August at 7pm

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on Monday 15th August 2011 at 7 p.m.