



Red House Park Friends Group
26th September 2011
Annual 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)
Sunish Patel (SP)
Sandra Lloyd (SL)
Jennie Dhanjal (JD)
Dinesh Parmar (DP)
Veena Parmar (VP)
Mark Sanders (MS)
Sgt Martin Hewitt (MH)
PCSO Becki Peebles (BP)
Dennis Timms (DT)

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Lin Jenks, Steve Melia and Tony Ward

BG thanked all the members for their commitment and efforts over the past year and handed over to SP for election of officers for the coming year.

SP reiterated his thanks to the officers and his hopes for the coming year including the application for Green Flag statement. He then invited nominations for the positions as follows;

Chair	-	BG nominated without contest and will stand again
Vice Chair	-	KW nominated without contest and will stand again
Secretary	-	LI nominated without contest and will stand again
Treasurer	-	CH nominated without contest and will stand again

BG then continued as chair.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed and approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

None were arising

5. Chair's Report

- BG asked SP for update on progress regarding bat sign. SP will investigate. [Post meeting note funding has now been agreed SP has informed MS.](#)

6. Secretary's Report

- Santa event has been planned for Sunday 11th December 12.30 – 15.30



- The community police team have asked for a key to the pavilion as a base during evenings and weekends. This was agreed to be a good idea by the group and SP confirmed that this would be acceptable to the council.
- There is a possibility of raising funds via sales of tea and coffee on Sunday mornings. SP will forward a contact from Holy Name as they may be interested in a partnership.

7. Treasurer's Report

- The accounts have been finalised and submitted for audit by Bob Judd. KW will organise for a gift of wine to express our thanks to be sent to Mr Judd. Accounts summary was provided for all.
- The Friends have a total of £7946 in all accounts.
- CH reported that she has been unable to identify an account with improved interest rates whilst allowing instant access.
- CH suggested that some of the funds be used to purchase inclusive play equipment as previously discussed. This was agreed and SP confirmed that the council will maintain. SP will forward quotes to LI.
- LI asked if the council could assist with publicity when equipment is installed.

8. Council/Police Report

Council

- SP suggested that there may be extra storage available via liaison with Holy Name as they have space.
- We are still awaiting delivery of a kettle and vacuum SP will chase.
- Demolition of Red House outbuildings is ongoing.
- Quotes have been received for replacement of fencing at Pages Lane gate.
- Quotes have been received for installation of new fence from Hill Lane to car park.
- Management plans for Green Flag application are underway. SP will bring draft to next meeting. Any evidence held by members of the group can be sent to LI.
- SP will check location of bird boxes with MS and RW prior to installation.
- Gardener will be provided with a space and cabin to the rear of the pavilion.
- KW asked if there was any reason why Hill Lane gates were locked on Sun 25th Sept – SP was not aware of any, this may have been an oversight.
- GC queried why a wall facing Hill Lane had been left standing following demolition works. SP will look into.

Police

- MH reported that crime levels had been low. One breach of ASBO in park is going through courts. An altercation between two gents walking dogs was reported.
- Section 30 dispersal order still in force and additional patrols have been instigated following an increase in ASB associated with House and demolition site.
- LI reported that she has witnessed motorbikes and scooters in the park and has reported these to West Brom police station. MH will discuss with bike unit.
- BG raised concerns that gating projects in Hamstead and Gorse Farm has moved gangs to park and surrounding streets. MH agreed that this is an issue and has requested help from council wardens.
- SP asked if there are cameras available to monitor problem areas in the park – however there are issues related to where these could be fitted.

- BG asked about the security lights at the front of the house. SP will investigate whether these are able to be used.

9. Use of the Park

- Inclusive equipment to be discussed when quotes are available

10. Features of the Park

- Maintenance is still required on the paths around the ponds.
- Monument is in excellent condition.

11. Park Environment

- The 6 cygnets are all doing well and are almost fully grown.
- Flower displays are consistently impressive.
- Any issues of vandalism should be reported to ASB hotline or the Park Rangers on 07850 013777.
- A further 18 conifers have been damaged by a fire.

12. Sport and Play Facilities

- Football season is underway and pitches are well used.
- The tennis courts are still popular and concrete pad has been installed near here for the placing of an additional bin as requested.
- It was suggested that Sandwell Leisure Trust may be able to offer tennis coaching.

13. Forthcoming Events

- [Santa Event to be held Sunday 11th December 12.30 – 15.30 – an events meeting was held on 10th October with following actions;](#)
 - SL will begin to purchase prizes with a budget of £40
 - Selection boxes will be purchased
 - LI will price 2500 flyers for advertising
 - Stalls will be – Name the bear, Raffle, tombola, lucky dip, prize every time,
 - Santa to be played by Sam Saunders (Lisa's dad)

14. Any Other Business

- A breakfast/serving bar will be needed to ensure safety when serving drinks in pavilion
- The bat walk was very well attended with the talk and video well received. 4 varieties of bat were seen.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held on Monday 7th Nov 2011 at 7pm
Please note all meetings will now take place in the Community Room – This is located in the new pavilion near to the Pages Lane gate.