



Red House Park Friends Group
7th November 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)
Sunish Patel (SP)
Sandra Lloyd (SL) (Left Early)
Ray Wheatley (RW)
Sadie Smith (SS)
Steve Melia (SM)

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Lin Jenks, Dinesh and Veena Parmar, Martin Hewitt and Becki Peebles

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed and approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

- SP asked that we clarify that it is not the funding for the bat sign that has been approved, rather that permission has been given for the sign to go ahead. SP is liaising with Mark Sanders to confirm design.
- Steve Pace will be contacted regarding shared use of facilities.
- Kettle and Vacuum have been delivered to the community room.
- SP has made enquiries regarding security lighting.

5. Chair's Report

- BG updated all that the official handover of the community room took place on the 25th October and was covered by the Great Barr Observer.
- There is a real need to move forward with identifying uses for the room in order to keep stewardship with the group.

6. Secretary's Report

- There has been a request for hire of the community room on Sun 20th Nov for a 1st birthday party. BG and LI have agreed this in principle with a hire rate of £8 ph. SS suggested that a bond be taken and it was agreed that some form of terms should be drawn up. SM will forward copy from Yew Tree Comm centre for reference.



- There is a need for toilet roll and hand towel dispensers, and toilet brushes in the community room. SP will look into this
- 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.
- SP will forward details of Mark who is the chair of Barmford Park Friends group who may be able to advise us on use of the room.
- It was discussed and agreed that due to the size of the group we will need to look at paying someone to take on the running of the room.
- The purchase of inclusive play equipment from the groups funds was discussed and agreed that we should go ahead. SP will ask reps to attend meeting to discuss what is available.

7. Treasurer's Report

- There were no updates from CH.

8. Council/Police Report

Council

- Lighting is being priced for the Pages Lane car park and outside of the community room.
- GC queried whether dogs will be allowed in the community room. It was agreed that guide/assistance dogs only would be permitted. SM suggested that a sign is put up to confirm this
- Demolition of Red House outbuildings is complete.
- Quotes have been received for replacement of fencing at Pages Lane gate. –ongoing.
- Quotes have been received for installation of new fence from Hill Lane to car park - ongoing
- A decision has been made to defer Green Flag application due to the fact that considerable works are required around the ponds areas to achieve the standards,
- GC queried why a wall facing Hill Lane had been left standing following demolition works. SP will look into. – SP updated that there were problems with structural aspects of this wall and David Brown was looking into having it painted instead. SM said this has also been raised at the town forum. SP will liaise with them to avoid duplication.

Police

- There have been no reports of crime in the park. There was a theft of number plates from a vehicle in Hill Lane on 2nd November.
- There have been 2 recorded incidents in the park, 1 on the 4th Oct when 2 drunks knocked over the fencing around the demolition site. They were stopped by the police and returned to the site to put right the fencing. The second occurred on the 7th Oct when there was a report of a white male exposing himself in the park – the police attended but there was no sign of the male.
- 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. – MH has reported that as only 1 report has been made no additional resources are available at this time.
- SS wished it to be recorded that the Sector Inspector for the area is shortly moving on and that she will be much missed due to her efforts and commitment.

9. Use of the Park

- SM informed the group that a Highways investigation is currently ongoing into the Pages Lane entrance as it is deemed to be a safety concern



10. Features of the Park

- Maintenance is still required on the paths around the ponds – SP updated that funding should be available for this under Green Flag.
- 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. – it was suggested that these be replaced with Hawthorn bushes to prevent further vandalism. RW will obtain quotes

12. Sport and Play Facilities

- Football season is underway and pitches are well used.
- An additional bin has now been installed adjacent to tennis courts.
- 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
 - SL will begin to purchase prizes with a budget of £40 - Complete
 - Selection boxes will be purchased - Complete
 - LI will price 2500 flyers for advertising – 5000 have been ordered at a cost of £65
 - Stalls will be – Name the bear, Raffle, tombola, lucky dip, prize every time,
 - Santa to be played by Sam Saunders (Lisa's dad)
- BG will arrange for tombola prizes to be dropped at pavilion, these can then be sorted.

14. Any Other Business

- A breakfast/serving bar will be needed to ensure safety when serving drinks in pavilion - ongoing

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held on Monday 12^h Dec 2011 at 7pm

The next Events Meeting will take place on Monday 21st November 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.