

Red House Park Friends Group  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
General Meeting

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 7.00 p.m

**1. Present**

Bill Gunn (BG) Keith Wild (KW) Christine Horton (CH) Ray Wheatley SMBC (RW) Sunish Patel SMBC (SP) Sandra Lloyd (SL) Graham Carlin (GC)
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**2. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Sonia Vaughan and Lisa Ingram

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Proposed and Approved as a true record

**4. Chairman's Report**

BG thanked everyone that helped with 'Santa in the Park'. Considering the weather, we had a steady stream of visitors and it was a big improvement being under cover in the new Community Room. BG also commented on how the main drive had been cleaned and the Park looked very tidy.

**5. Treasurers Report**

CH has not received all the monies in yet so will present the account for Santa in the Park at the next meeting

**6. Secretary's Report**

Lisa also wanted to thank everyone for their help and support for the event particularly Santa, his Elf and his fantastic Grotto.

**7. Council Report**

**Play Equipment** - SP said that he was waiting for the 'Friends' to tell him which Supplier they wanted to go with. When he has this information he will invite the Supplier to attend one of our meetings for discussion.

**Bat Sign** – SP reported that they were waiting for a 'mock up' of the sign. This will then be sent to Sandwell Valley for approval. SP confirmed he would email Mark  
**Wall to be Painted** – SP reported that new fencing would be put up around the site where the demolition has taken place and the wall would be painted to improve the appearance of the area.

**Fitness Equipment** – SP reported that fitness equipment is to be installed in the Park SP asked the Group to consider how they would like it to be distributed.

**Community Room** - A lot of discussion has taken place on how best this Room can be used. It is noted by the Friends that the presence of the Football Teams over the weekend make it difficult to hire out the room. There also needs to be facilities put in the toilets for washing and drying hands etc. before the toilets can be used by the general public. There is an additional toilet next to the Community Room and the 'Friends' wondered if this could be used by people hiring the Room. The Friends have e.mailed David Brown with all these

concerns and he is going to attend to those he can and has suggested that the Community Room is hired out when the Football is not taking place.

The Group have asked for a light above the door to make it easier to lock up during the dark nights.

BG suggested that the Friends hold an extra meeting in the New Year to discuss the Community Room and the best way to manage its use.

### **8. Police Report**

Sergeant Martin Hewitt has emailed the latest police newsletter to the Group. The next Neighbourhood Forum Meeting will be Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 6pm at the Methodist Church, Sundial Lane. This is the local community's chance to voice any concerns. Also information about what is going on locally is available on the police web site, [www.sandwellpolice.org.uk](http://www.sandwellpolice.org.uk)

### **9. Forthcoming Events**

BG said that early in the New Year we needed to sort the date of the Bat Walk and confirm Events we want to hold in the Summer.

### **10. Park Environment and Facilities**

Replacement of the conifers that have been burnt was discussed and it was felt that they would be better replaced by a Hawthorn Hedge. The Group extended their thanks to the Gardener for the appearance of the gardens.

**The next meeting of the 'Friends' will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 at 7 p.m. in the Community Pavillion near the Pages Lane gate.**

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