



Red House Park Friends Group
23rd January 2012
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)
Ray Wheatley (RW)
Sadie Smith (SS)
Steve Melia (SM)
Jackie Ward (JW)
Jennie Dhanjal (JD)
Lin Jenks (LJ)
Sonia Vaughan (SV)
Sue Nye (SN)
Doug Belfield (DB)
Sgt Martin Hewitt (MH)

Prior to the start of the meeting proper, DB was introduced as a representative of Streetscape and addressed the members regarding options for provision of inclusive play equipment in the park. After discussion it was decided that the group would prefer to purchase a larger piece of equipment than the springer first mentioned as this would enable a wider use. DB will prepare quotes for a dish roundabout and a basket swing. It was acknowledged that the cost will be higher but thought to be worthwhile given the additional benefits. SP suggested that match funding may be available and MH informed that there may be an opportunity through the proceeds of crime funding. He will look into this for us. SS, SP and SM will also investigate any town team funding that may be available. SV and DB informed that Natwest bank operate a community funding programme that may be worth looking into and there is a further opportunity through the Sport Relief Birmingham and Black Country fund.

SN was then introduced as the leader of the Great Barr District Guide. The local guiding groups are interested in taking part in a national beacon project to celebrate the jubilee on June 4th and would like to situate their beacon on the monument hill in the park. SP confirmed that subject to a booking form and relevant public liability insurances this could go ahead. SN confirmed that the beacon will be gas powered. LI suggested that we hold a joint celebration to tie in with the Guide's event. After discussion it was decided that a children's "Jubilee Tea" could be held with provision of basic food such as jam sandwiches and fairy cakes for the local children with the lighting of the beacon taking place after dark.

DB then left and SN stayed to take part in the meeting proper.



2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from, Dinesh and Veena Parmar.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed and approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

No matters were arising.

5. Chair's Report

- BG thanked SM for his efforts in getting signs for the park erected in the surrounding roads..
- New fencing has been installed at the Pages Lanes gate and at the site of Jumping Jacks down to the car park gate. BG asked about the possibility of a flower bed at the Pages Lane site, SP will look into this.
- BG sent a letter of thanks to the Great Barr Observer for the support received at the Santa event. In future these will need to be e-mailed.
- BG and LI attended a forum of the parks at the council house on Tuesday 17th Jan. It is hoped that this will encourage greater liaison between Friends groups.

6. Secretary's Report

- Contact has been made with Great Barr Rotary Club with a view to providing mutual support at events for both groups. A representative was unable to attend tonight but this can hopefully be progressed in the coming weeks.
- There is also a possibility of liaison with PCT based at Yew Tree Community Centre who would like to observe how we run events with a view to holding their own dog show in the future.
- *Post meeting note – a letter was received from Acorns Hospice to thank the group for their donation of selection boxes*

7. Treasurer's Report

- £196 profit was made at Santa in the Park.
- LI passed over a cheque for £45 from the sale of outstanding selection boxes.
- 1 raffle prize was not collected and this will be carried over to the next event.

8. Council/Police Report

Council

- Lighting is being priced for the Pages Lane car park and outside of the community room.
- Fencing is complete at Pages Lane and at Jumping Jacks site.
- 10 additional parking spaces are to be created at Pages Lane.
- A welfare cabin for the gardener will shortly be placed at the rear of the pavilion.
- Additional toilet facilities, toilet roll, soap and paper towel dispensers have been received and will be fitted in the near future.
- SP has had no feedback on the bat signs, he suggested that he approach Sandwell Valley staff for final approval of accuracy of content. This was agreed.



- SP showed the group provisional plans for the installation of exercise equipment in the park, after discussion it was decided that the equipment should be spread around the park. SP will obtain design options for the next meeting.

Police

- There have been no reports of crime in the park.
- There have been 2 recorded incidents in the park, both involving persons setting fire to the conifers on the 14th Dec and 18th Jan. SP queried the possibility of Fire Service bike patrols, MH does not think that this will be possible due to the inconsistent nature of the incidents and funding issues within the Fire Service.
- Crime in the surrounding area seems to be still concentrated on house burglaries and the team are working hard to combat this.
- Police surgeries are now being held in the community pavilion and it is hoped that the lighter evenings will increase numbers attending.
- The next community forum meeting is to be held at Sundial Methodist Church on Thurs 2nd Feb at 6pm.

9. Use of the Park

No issues arising

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.

11. Park Environment

- SL raised the issue of the litter at the Hill Lane side of the park, particularly at the bowling green LJ also pointed out that there was a similar problem around the ponds. SP advised that all complaints be sent to Serco. This can be done online via “Fix my Street” link on both the police and council website or by calling 0845 3597501
- Any issues of vandalism should be reported to ASB hotline on 0845 6052222 or the Park Rangers on 07850 013777.
- As per MH’s report, there have been further instances of arson involving conifers, the plan is still to replace these with a hawthorn hedge.

12. Sport and Play Facilities

- Football season is underway and pitches are well used.
- LI raised possibility of tennis coaching at the parks forum on Tues 17th Jan.

13. Forthcoming Events

- Jubilee Tea - 4th June joint event with Guides
- Paws in the Park - 19th August joint event with K9 **Please note this date is different to that discussed in the meeting due to the commitments of Jenny and her team.**
- Bat Walk - 5th September
- Santa in the Park - 9th December

LI will complete booking forms and risk assessments for these dates.



14. Any Other Business

No issues arising

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held on Monday 5th March 2012 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.