



**Minutes of General Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012  
at the Red House Park Pavilion Community Room**

Chairman: Bill Gunn opened the Meeting at 19.00  
Secretary: Lisa Saunders

1. **Attendance:** Bill Gunn (BG), Keith Wild (KW), Lisa Ingram (LI), Graham Carlin (GC), Christine Horton (CH), Sunish Patel (SP), Sandra Lloyd (SL), Ray Wheatley (RW), Jennie Dhanjal (JD), Lin Jenks (LJ), Sonia Vaughan (SV), Mark Sanders (MS)
2. **Apologies.** Martin Hewitt, Steve Melia
3. **Minutes of Previous Minutes** as distributed were proposed and approved as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**
  - LI highlighted a post meeting note to item 6 – A letter of thanks has been received from Acorns Hospice for the donation of the leftover selection boxes.
  - LI also confirmed the change of dates originally suggested for Paws in the Park and Bat Walk events. These will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> August and 12<sup>th</sup> September respectively.
5. **Chair's Report**
  - BG was approached by a lady in the park who reported having seen youths shooting at wildlife near the ponds she had called the police but there is no mention on the report from Sgt Hewitt. LI will clarify with Sgt Hewitt.
  - BG has had 2 items of jewellery that were found in the park handed into him. SL will hand in to police as she is attending a neighbourhood watch meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March.
6. **Secretary's Report**
  - LI circulated booking forms for this year's events which were signed and passed to SP, Risk Assessments will be completed for the next meeting.
  - There is a nationwide "Love your Park" week from the 21<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July which may be an opportunity to liaise with PCT or SLT to hold health walks. LI will look into.
  - Sgt Hewitt has asked if we are aware of any groups holding Olympic themed events that may tie in with the Olympic Torch passing through Sandwell on 30<sup>th</sup> June.
  - LI has submitted a proposal for match funding for inclusive play equipment from the LAB. Feedback is that a full application can be submitted, LI will do this.
  - A booking enquiry for the community room has been received from the local labour party. LI had rejected this following consultation with CH as we were not able to provide a key holder. A discussion followed as to any group member who may be willing to open and lock up after bookings. It was agreed that travel expenses could be paid for this duty.

- LI queried whether leaflets and posters for all events this year should be ordered in advance to save costs. This was agreed with the following numbers;
 

Jubilee Tea	-	1000 for local schools
Paws in the Park	-	5000 schools and house drop
Santa in the Park	-	Schools + local house drop
- LI will be unavailable during April due to holiday and house move. The house move will also mean that a new keyholder will need to be nominated. JD offered to do this.

7. **Treasurer's Report** CH had nothing new to report.

8. **Council/Police Report**

**Council**

- A light has been fitted outside the community room but the angle does not allow view of the locks SP will raise.
- Lighting will no longer be fitted in the car park due to concerns about attracting ASB. Additional sensor lights will be fitted to the building.
- 10 additional parking spaces are to be created at Pages Lane – this has been delayed due to issues with the contractor selected. A new contractor is being sought.
- Additional toilet facilities, toilet roll, soap and paper towel dispensers have now been fitted.
- Sandwell Valley staff have approved the accuracy of Bat Signs, MS will forward an electronic version to SP for production.
- A site visit has been carried out to identify locations for outdoor gym equipment. 4 items will be situated along the main path and the rest on a tarmac pad near the MUGA.
- There is a possibility of steel nets being installed on the tennis courts. SP will update on this later in the year.
- SP will forward details of a scheme whereby the group can apply for a free tree pack to celebrate the Jubilee.

**Police**

- MH has enquired about POCA funding for the group, unfortunately none is available at the moment but he will let us know if this changes.
- There have been 2 recorded incidents in the park, both on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. In the first a 13 year old girl had a mobile phone stolen and in the second a fire was set near the monument.
- Crime in the surrounding area seems to be still concentrated on house burglaries and the team are working hard to combat this.

9. **Red House Park  
Features of the Park**

- SP updated that quotes have been received for maintenance on the paths around the ponds.

**Park Environment**

- There is still a problem with 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 605 2222 or the Park Rangers on 0785 001 3777.
- It is still hoped to replace the burned conifers with a hawthorne hedge to deter further vandalism.

### **Sport and Play Facilities**

- Football season is underway and pitches are well used.
- There are litter issues around the pitches after they have been used on Sundays. These should be reported to SP when observed.

### **Park Diary**

- Jubilee Tea - 4<sup>th</sup> June joint event with Guides Jubilee Beacon
- Paws in the Park - 19<sup>th</sup> August joint event with K9 – JD has booked approx. 20 stalls so far and has obtained sponsorship and prizes for the dog show. There will also be a photographer. A full discussion of progress and actions required will be held in the events meeting.
- Bat Walk - 5<sup>th</sup> September
- Santa in the Park - 9<sup>th</sup> December

### **10. Any Other Business**

- An events meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the Community Room.

### **11. Date of Next General Meeting**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 starting at 7pm in the Community Room

Please note, all meetings of the Friends Group will take place in the Community Room located in the new Pavilion located near to the Pages Lane gate.