



**Minutes of General Meeting held 28th May 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), Ray Wheatley (RW), Jennie Sonia Vaughan (SV), Mark Sanders (MS), Graham Jones (GJ), Kuldip Deol (KD)
2. **Apologies.** Martin Hewitt, Sandra Lloyd, Lin Jenks
3. **Minutes of Previous Minutes** as distributed were proposed and approved as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - Gym equipment for the park will be sited adjacent to the MUGA after discussions between BG and contractors. There was a query as to whether the equipment would be a target for vandals at night. SP reassured the group that the equipment is very robust and there have been few issues elsewhere.
5. **Chair's Report**
 - The group will celebrate its 10th anniversary in September 2012. BG thanks all members and councillors that have helped over the years. It was agreed that this should be publicised. LI will contact the Great Barr Observer.
 - There was some discussion over an offer from the company supplying gym equipment to provide a free item for the under 8's area. SP asked who would fund the installation MS will contact to confirm whether this will be included.
6. **Secretary's Report**
 - It was agreed that leaflets for Paws in the Park should be ordered single sided and posters put into boards (**Post meeting note – leaflets have arrived**)
 - LI queried bookings for use of the community room during cricket matches. SP has asked that the group open up the room for one booking during August. This was agreed with a proviso that if it should become a regular occurrence further discussion will be needed. MS also asked that checks be made to confirm that the group has not already let the room before accepting bookings. It was re-iterated that bookings cannot be taken during the football season.
7. **Treasurer's Report**
 - CH detailed expenditure of £32.68 for the set- up of the community which was agreed. SP reminded the group that all electrical items will need to be PAT tested MS is overseeing this
8. **Council/Police Report**
Council
 - A fridge has been sourced for the community room and will be delivered shortly.

- A fire risk assessment has been done and extinguishers ordered.
- Extension to car park at Pages Lane is complete awaiting line markings.
- Gym equipment prices and options have been confirmed.
- Patching works outside the Red House have been completed.
- Bat sign is in production.
- There are several fallen trees following high winds, SP will get the tree manager to assess.
- CH queried the replacement of vandalised conifers – we are awaiting delivery of a jubilee tree pack requested by LI but SP believes that David Brown may be able to assist also. It was agreed that hawthorn is the best option.

Police

- No report was available

9. Red House Park Features of the Park

- The swans have produced 7 cygnets this year
- SL and MS queried installation of bat and bird boxes. This has been prohibitively expensive but may be resolved under the push for Green Flag status.

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.
- Works will be undertaken to install bollards at Longleat gate to prevent vehicular access to the park.
- The steps between ponds will be renewed.

Sport and Play Facilities

- Football season is ended and cricket square is being prepared..
- There are litter issues around the pitches after they have been used on Sundays. These should be reported to SP when observed.
- MS provided an update on the Community Room following a visit to Barnford Park. They do not currently use a contract of hire but have a discussion with all hirers regarding rules. Public liability insurance will be required and MS will get contact details from Barnford to arrange a quote.
- LI queried whether the group should talk with Holy Name football who are keen to hire the room every Sat and Sun. It was agreed that a price of £25 per day would be reasonable.

Park Diary

- Paws in the Park - An events meeting was held on the 11th June as follows;
 - Funfair has been booked via Pat Collins who will pay a total of £550 to provide fair, burgers and doughnuts
 - Ice Cream van has been confirmed he will pay £50 + a donation if takings are good
 - Leaflets will be brought to next general meeting to be shared out for distribution
 - LI and MS will manage the Dog Show
 - A tombola and raffle will be run by the group
- Bat Walk - 5th September
- Santa in the Park - 9th December

10. Any Other Business

- An events meeting will be held on Monday 16th July at 7pm in the Community Room.

11. Date of Next General Meeting

Monday 9th July 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.