



Red House Park Friends Group
1st October 2012
Annual 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)
Andy Tromans (AT) – Sandwell MBC Officer
Sandra Lloyd (SL)
Jennie Dhanjal (JD)
Mark Sanders (MS)
Sonia Vaughn (SV)
Tony Ward (TW)
Steve Meila (SM)

2. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Sunish Patel and Ray Wheatley.

BG thanked all the members for their commitment and efforts over the past year and handed over to AT for election of officers for the coming year.

AT invited nominations for positions as follows;

Chair	-	BG nominated without contest and will stand again
Vice Chair	-	KW nominated without contest and will stand again
Secretary	-	LI nominated without contest and will stand again
Treasurer	-	CH nominated without contest and will stand again

TW offered to stand as Press Secretary with primary aim of assisting with publicity for events and promoting the aims of the Friends. The offer was gratefully accepted.

BG then continued as chair.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Proposed and approved as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

- JD updated that 4 dogs were re-homed as a result of Paws in the Park.
- SL will co-ordinate publicity for next year's event, SL queried if this could include large posters being put in boards of other parks in the borough.
- SL has received a thank you card from Elizabeth Perkins, a raffle winner from Paws in the Park. She is involved with the Birmingham Conservation Trust and has passed on contact details for their group who may be able to assist with grant applications and the like.
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5. Chair's Report

- BG informed the group that the Bat Walk had to be cancelled due to a lack of advance advertising and of resource to assist with preparation and management of the walk.
- BG has asked that anyone putting out posters for our events also be responsible for collecting them in. Several were left out after Paws in the Park which may result in negative publicity for the group.

6. Secretary's Report

- We have been allocated a pack of 105 trees from the Woodland Trust to mark the Diamond Jubilee. These are due to be delivered end Oct/start Nov. LI asked AT if help would be available with planning and planting of these. AT will refer to Martin Brayford to request. [Post meeting note – this has been agreed and LI will contact Martin when trees have arrived.](#)

7. Treasurer's Report

- CH presented a full set of accounts to the meeting, these will now be taken by KW for audit to be done by Bob Judd.
- The Friends have a total of £8213.68 in all accounts.
- CH is still attempting to find an account with a higher rate of interest as we earned only £3.86 in the past year..
- A total of £163.17 has been spent to equip the community room. An income of £40 has been generated.
- £948 was spent on the Bat Sign.
- It was agreed that inclusive play equipment should now be purchased, this will be done through the council and the group will reimburse the costs. AT will progress this with Sunish Patel.

8. Council/Police Report

Council

- A new play tractor has been installed in the under 8's playground and is proving very popular.
- New surfacing has been installed beneath the RBT and tyre swings at the same time as above to replace damaged/worn surface.
- Extra car parking spaces and new white lines have been completed and repairs have been carried out to the path near the house.
- The old bowling hut has been removed and the area soiled and seeded.
- Steps by the ponds have been upgraded and an additional bollard installed at the Longleat gate to restrict vehicular access.
- The gym kit has been part delivered and will be installed on full receipt. This may be mid – late November.
- SL asked that the litter issue on the bowling green (against the fencing at Hill Lane side) be looked into. AT will try to resolve.

Police

- There was no Police representative present.



9. Use of the Park

- Nothing to report

10. Features of the Park

Community Room

- MS raised issue that we still do not have fire extinguishers in the Community Room and without these we should not be taking bookings. AT will try to progress this.
- There are still issues with the cleanliness of the toilets following use by football teams, the group are finding themselves having to clean toilets before we open Community Room as well as after. It does not seem a fair arrangement that we are cleaning toilets after the teams. AT will look into cleaning arrangements.
- There is evidence of damp in the groups store room and quite a large amount of raffle and tombola stock had to be thrown away. Solutions are to be looked into by AT.

General

- The Red House is still advertised for sale.
- There are no planned works other than general maintenance around the ponds.
- AT did a walk of the park around 1 month ago to inspect blocked drains, SV made him aware of 2 potential issues at the bottom of Hill Lane and these will be looked at.

11. Park Environment

- The park has been gifted 3 rose bushes from Friends of Barnford Park, these have been planted and are doing well.
- The flower beds have now been cleared and prepared for winter planting.
- TW raised issue of grass cutters accessing parks through the trees on Longleat. AT will look at this in case any additional bollards are needed.
- Any issues of vandalism should be reported to ASB hotline or the Park Rangers on 07850 013777.

12. Sport and Play Facilities

- There are on-going problems with the cleanliness of the football pitches following matches. These need to be reported on a case by case basis with photos if possible. Action can then be taken against the appropriate teams.
- The tennis courts are still popular.
- It was suggested that additional equipment could be installed on the bowling green, other parks have installed table football and table tennis with great success. This is possibly our next objective for fund raising, AT will forward prices.

13. Forthcoming Events

- Santa Event to be held Sunday 9th December 12.30 – 15.30
 - LI to arrange printing of leaflets
 - Selection boxes will be purchased (SL will price)
 - Santa to be played by Sam Saunders (Lisa's dad)
 - Stalls TBC at events meeting on October 22nd



14. Any Other Business

- KW is a member of the Rotary Club, they have recently worked with Walsall and Aldridge Business Foundation to obtain £55k of funding for the Croft in Walsall. This has been coordinated by Bob Cooke, KW suggested inviting Bob to talk about this. AT agreed that this has also been done within Sandwell with David Brown as contact. It was agreed that Bob should be invited in the New Year.
- SV will look out for a gazebo for use by the group at future events.
- CH will arrange purchase of a gift for Ray Wheatley to express the thanks and best wishes of the group following his recent illness.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next General Meeting of the 'Friends' Committee will be held on Monday 12th Nov 2011 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.