



# Friends of Red House Park

## General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012  
Venue: The Pavilion Red House Park Newton Road Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

Chairs opening remarks:

Mr Bill Gunn opened the meeting and presented My Ray Wheatley with a card and gift from the Friends to mark his recent retirement. Bill thanked Ray on behalf of the group for his continued dedication to the improvement of the Park and the invaluable help he has provided in the running of events over the past ten years.

### 1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)	-	Chair
Lisa Ingram (LI)	-	Secretary
Christine Horton (CH)	-	Treasurer
Sunish Patel (SP)	-	SMBC
Cllr Steve Melia (SM)		
Sandra Lloyd (SL)		
Sonia Vaughn (SV)		
Ray Wheatley (RW)		
Graham Carling (GC)		
Graham Jones (GJ)		
Beckie Pegg (BP)		

Apologies were received from; Keith Wild (Vice Chair), Jennie Dhanjal

### 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting

These were proposed and accepted as a true record.

### 3. Matters arising from those minutes

- LI updated the meeting that Andy Tromans had dealt with all the actions assigned to him at the AGM on the 1<sup>st</sup> October and has passed some of these onto SP for completion.
- The promised fridge has arrived but is unsuitable due to age and poor state of cleanliness. SP agreed this was not acceptable and will look into further.
- SP confirmed that a Level 2 Fire Safety Risk Assessment had been carried out showing that extinguishers are required in the Community Room, Boiler Room and Stores. These were ordered in August and it is unclear why they have not yet been installed.

#### 4. Reports:

##### i) Chair

- BG confirmed that the gym equipment installation has been completed. This has proved very popular with the local school children. The recent fine weather at the weekend saw the park being very busy with families enjoying the facilities.
- SL stated that she had some concerns over the weekend (and in general) with the speed of vehicles travelling down Hill Lane. SM is not aware of this location being a problem but suggested that SL raise this at the next local forum.

##### ii) Secretary

- The trees from the Woodland Trust have arrived, there may not be enough for what is needed so LI will look into further releases of packs in the Spring.
- SP will contact the gardener and arrange for the whips to be taken care of until planting can be arranged. The Friends will need to arrange a date for planting at which point assistance from the council will be co-ordinated. – **Post meeting note – this needs to be asap.**
- Inclusive play equipment in the form of a dish roundabout has been ordered as agreed at the AGM
- Quotes have been forwarded for Table Tennis (£1900) and Table Football (£2900)
- 5000 leaflets have been printed to advertise Santa in the Park. These were passed out for distribution to local primary schools.
- SL requested posters to advertise event and some for raffle table. LI will print and bring to next events meeting.
- SV suggested that Friends table at Santa in the Park be used to canvass local opinion regarding what further projects funds could be used on.

##### iii) Treasurer

- CH confirmed that the account books have been audited and accepted.
- It was agreed that a gift of wine should be purchased for Bob Judd as a thank you for carrying out the audit.
- CH has looked into changing the Friends account to one paying a better rate of interest but has been unable to find one that does not involve investment of funds for a fixed period.
- SM suggested that we look into the Unity Trust who may offer a better deal.

##### iv) Council

- SP informed group that a letter had been received from a resident of Meadowside Close requesting a key to Pages Lane gate so that she is able to walk her dog early in the morning. This was discussed but decided that SP should respond in the negative, LI will assist with response if needed.
- There will be a public unveiling of the gym equipment in the near future with a media presence.
- SP has spoken to Severn Trent who have now accepted responsibility for cleaning of two drains near the ponds SV also pointed out that there are two drains near where the old path runs from bottom of Hill Lane through the Park to Wilderness Lane. These are also blocked, SP will confirm location and ownership.
- A Risk Assessment is needed for Santa in the Park, this will be done by LI.
- BG pointed out that there are still a number of dead branches to be removed from the Park.

- The dish RBT will be ordered by the Council and costs claimed from the group.

v) Police

- No representative from the Police was present.
- CH informed that she had attended a recent local forum where the Police stated that they were looking into speeding issues around the park and the use of motorbikes within the park.
- SM updated the Group that the layout of the turn from Newton Rd to Pages Lane is being altered to slow down traffic.

5. Red House Park

i) Features of the Park

- CH stated that at the local forum questions have been asked as to why the general public do not have access to the community room. SP was asked for his opinion but this basically comes down to resourcing as we do not have the facility to open up, monitor and clean the room.
- SL complained that the fee for a recent booking for a child's party had been returned as when the room was opened there were no chairs and tables. SP apologised as these had been borrowed for an event elsewhere that overran.
- BG stated that Ladbrookes had made an initial enquiry into using the room for training and meeting facilities.
- BP is involved with several local art and craft groups who may be interested in regular hire. GJ suggested that groups who wish to make a regular booking be interviewed and assessed for suitability to be issued with a key.
- BP queried whether free hire could be offered to new groups, this was discussed and generally agreed although LI suggested that a donation could be requested.
- GJ offered to carry out cleaning of toilets as required, a key will be cut for him.
- A hirer agreement is needed.

ii) Park Environment

- SP will look at the tree planting.

iii) Sport and Play Facilities

- The new gym equipment has been installed and is in use.

iv) Park Diary

- Santa in the Park will take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 12.30 – 15.30
- Dates for 2013 meeting to be produced.

6. Any Other Business

- No issues were raised.

7. Date of Next General Meeting

- **19.00 Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012**
- **An Events meeting will be held at 19.00 on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

Yours sincerely,

*Lisa Ingram*

Secretary FofRHP