



# Friends of Red House Park

## General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
Venue: The Pavilion Red House Park Newton Road Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

Chairs opening remarks:

Mr Bill Gunn welcomed the group and passed on the sad news that, due to ill health, Mr Graham Carling will no longer be able to take an active part in the group. Thanks for Graham's commitment and efforts in the past, and best wishes for his recovery were expressed. BG also shared a recent article from the Birmingham Evening Mail in praise of the Park and the facilities on offer.

### 1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)	-	Chair
Sunish Patel (SP)	-	SMBC
Keith Wild (KW)	-	Vice Chair
Lisa Ingram (LI)	-	Secretary
Christine Horton (CH)	-	Treasurer
Sonia Vaughn (SV)		
Ray Wheatley (RW)		
Paul Gillam (PG)		
Graham Jones (GJ)		
David Fisher (DF)		
Sadie Smith (SS)		

Apologies were received from; Sandra Lloyd

### 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting

These were proposed and accepted as a true record.

### 3. Matters arising from those minutes

- The Dish RBT has now been installed. GJ queried the particular purpose and the inclusivity aim was explained.
- SP circulated a brochure showing different types and costs of benches, these are in the region of £600. SP confirmed that all installations would be on a concrete bed and that costs for installation would be met by the council. CH suggested that this be looked at again when the funds for the RBT have been cleared.

#### 4. Reports:

##### i) Chair

- The meeting of the Friends Forum has been rescheduled for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April. There are to be three attendees including BG.

##### ii) Secretary

- SP has passed on a request from Hargate Primary School for use of the Pavillion on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March. CH has provisionally agreed to open and close the facilities on the day but we await confirmation.

##### iii) Treasurer

- CH queried timescale for invoicing of costs for RBT. SP confirmed that this will be billed in the new financial year and the cheque will be raised at meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.
- CH would like consideration to be given to a minimum cash reserve to be retained by the group and a list of potential projects for the excess to be used on.
- A thank you card for Mr Sam Saunders was passed on to LI.
- CH queried whether a member of the group needs to remain in the Pavillion at all times when let out? SP stated that this was preferred but in the case of repeat, or on-going, bookings consideration could be given to preparation of a Safety Brief to be handed over to a responsible person.
- CH suggested that a minimum donation of £20 be requested for use by schools, this was agreed to be reasonable and SP will communicate this should any requests be submitted.

##### iv) Council

- The lighting around the Pavillion has been surveyed, the contractor has recommended the installation of 5M columns with timed lighting and an override option. The installation should begin in 2 – 3 weeks.
- Following the installation of the dish rbt, a post installation report has been carried out and the report is awaited. Invoice will be issued to the group in April.
- SP queried if the group would prefer a separate opening event for the dish rbt from the larger scale gym equipment opening scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> March. Following a discussion it was agreed that the presence of the Mayor on the 25<sup>th</sup> March would increase the media coverage and so the two should be combined. SP will prepare a brief for the press office.
- Meeting dates have now been installed in the notice boards.
- There is an on-going purge on dog fouling across the region.

##### v) Police

- No representative from the Police was present. LI will contact PCSO Becki Peeble to determine if keys to the Pavillion issued last year are still required.

#### 5. Red House Park

##### i) Features of the Park

- There were no issues arising

##### ii) Park Environment

- Thanks were expressed to the grounds maintenance team for their continued hard work and commitment particularly around the ponds area. Several compliments have been received in recent weeks regarding the well maintained appearance of the park.

- Burnt out conifers to the rear of the MUGA need removing and replacing with a hedge, there may be funding opportunities in relation to this. LI will revisit the Woodland Trust.
- BG asked if the grassed areas around the Pages Lane gates can be looked at with a view to making the entrance to the park more attractive. SP will pass the request on.

iii) Sport and Play Facilities

- A date is now agreed as 25<sup>th</sup> March for unveiling of gym equipment.
- SP will push for a repair to the Ski machine prior to the date.

iv) Park Diary

- PG has confirmed the football tournament to be Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June. BG will contact Pat Collins to see if they are willing to provide 2 small bouncy castles, the Friends will provide refreshments and take bookings for a small number of stalls and the baked potato van.
- Paws in the Park is confirmed for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August. LI will complete park booking forms for SP. Jennie from K9 is taking bookings for stalls and has confirmed the rosette sponsor. It was suggested that we invite Pat Collins to the next event meeting to discuss marketing and publicity for the event.
- BG would like to hold the Bat Walk this year but is need of volunteers to steward, prepare risk assessment and provide first aid support. SP has a contact who may be able to conduct RA and act as steward. GJ and DF volunteered to steward and DF to provide first aid. The walk will be provisionally booked for 11<sup>th</sup> September.

6. Any Other Business

- Several members have noted that the Red House Park website does not appear to be up to date. SV will contact Anthony Lewis to confirm if he is still able to continue with this.
- SV is to purchase a 3Mx 3M gazebo to use at future events.
- SP is to be asked to pursue the issue of a replacement fridge.
- Door catch between the community room and showers has now been fixed.

7. Date of Next General Meeting

- **19.00 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013**
- **A date for an Events meeting will be set on the 15<sup>th</sup> April**

Yours sincerely,

*Lisa Ingram*

Secretary FofRHP