



Friends of Red House Park

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 15th July 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 introduced Greg Piekarski and Andrew Wood. Greg has attended to represent members of the local community using the tennis courts. Andrew is a manager for Sandwell Strides who currently operate health walks in the park.

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)	-	Chair
Lisa Ingram (LI)	-	Secretary
Christine Horton (CH)	-	Treasurer
Sunish Patel (SP)	-	SMBC
Sonia Vaughn (SV)		
Sonia Lloyd (SL)		
Jennie Dhanjal (JD)		
David Fisher (DF)		
Graham Jones (GJ)		
Greg Piekarski (GP)		
Andrew Wood (AW)		

Apologies were received from; Cllr Steve Melia, Keith Wild,

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting

These were proposed and accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising from those minutes

No matters were arising.

4. Reports:

i) Chair

- BG requested 2 x sets of gate keys. SP to arrange.
- BG has been contacted by the Express and Star with regard to advertising but this has a cost of £400 for 4 weeks and was agreed to be too expensive.
- BG gave AW the floor, AW explained that he has been tasked with carrying out health checks on Sandwell residents between the ages of 40 and 74 and would like to use the Pavillion as a base for these. Use will be required for 4 weeks

and will take place on Monday's, following the health walk, from 11.30 – 14.30. A donation of £90 was agreed and this will be sent to CH.

ii) Secretary

- Risk assessment for Paws to be sent to Sunish as soon as possible..
- Leaflets are scheduled for delivery 16/07/13. LI took list of requirements in terms of numbers and will deliver to members during the week.
- Asian food van has been booked for Paws with a fee of £50 agreed.
- LI has been unable to contact Anthony Harris, SP provided an alternative number to confirm Fun Fair arrangements.

iii) Treasurer

- There are some queries around the arrangements for Paws that will be addressed at a separate discussion on Thursday.
- CH raised issue of the replacement of some damaged/dead rose bushes. SP suggested the donation from health checks could be used to fund this. SP will start the process.
- SP confirmed that new fridge must be purchased by the Friends he can arrange for the old one to be removed if JD cannot recycle to a rescue .

iv) Council

- Fire extinguishers have been installed, however SV noted that labels were missing from water extinguishers.
- Concerns regarding the new road layout have been passed to the Highways dept.
- Football season is due to start 25/08/13

v) Police

- No representative from the Police was present.

5. Red House Park

i) Features of the Park

- DF noted that the bird boxes around the park have deteriorated, we have replacements in store but are unable to install without MEWP access.

ii) Park Environment

- CH raised that there is a large amount of weed growth where Jumping Jacks used to stand. This is directly opposite the new build houses and is an eyesore.
- The issue of vegetation loss and the swan nesting platform is to be looked into by SP.
- SL and CH raised again the on-going problem of litter along Hill Lane.

iii) Sport and Play Facilities

- GP made representation that several of the tennis nets are broken and dipping in the centre, there is also damage to the surfacing on the courts in some locations.
- GP requested litter bins be placed in the courts but SP explained that this would not be possible due to the increased, on-going maintenance costs to the council.
- SL raised that graffiti has appeared on some of the play equipment and on the Red House.

iv) Park Diary

- Paws in the Park is going ahead on 18th August. Currently in excess of 50 stalls booked.

6. Any Other Business

- None.

7. Date of Next General Meeting

- **19.00 Monday 19th August 2013**

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Ingram

Secretary FofRHP