



Friends of Red House Park

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 10th March 2014

Venue: The Pavilion Red House Park Newton Road Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

Chairs opening remarks:

BG opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance.

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG) - Chair
Christine Horton (CH) - Treasurer
Sunish Patel (SP) - SMBC
Sonia Vaughan (SV)
Ed O'Neal (EO)
Dave Fisher (DF)
Sandra Lloyd (SL)

Apologies were received from Alethea Hegney, Lisa Ingram and Steve Melia

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting were unavailable

3. Reports - Chairman

BG said he had been approached by a school that wanted to organise walks for the children over a period of four weeks and they wanted use of the Pavilion. The Group said they would organise for someone to be available at the times required.

Secretary

Nothing to Report

Treasurer

CH reported that she understood Cameron Homes were going to donate £500.00 to 'The Friends Group'. After a discussion about the possibilities it was decided if we did receive a donation it would be used to buy a bench with a plaque.

Council

It was confirmed that all Notice Boards now have up to date notices in them. BG queried why there were no notices detailing the dates of the meetings of the Friends Group.

SP reported that a Dog Fouling Campaign was launched on Wednesday 29th January to increase awareness of the amount of dog fouling in the Park and surrounding area. It remains to be seen how successful this has been. The Group commented how good the new planting looked at the entrance in Newton Road. It was also commented that it was a pity that some of the plants had been stolen. Also a lot of children were climbing on the tree situated in the area outside the House. SP said we would monitor the situation and consider putting up a notice. SP told the Group that he had nominated the Friends of Red House Park for the West Bromwich Town Team Cleaner Greener Award.

Noticeboard on the Railings – DF said he had seen a noticeboard that he considered would be very good for the Friends Group. DF offered to take a picture of it and send it to SP to see if he could identify it and find out the cost

Bench – The Friends confirmed which bench the Group would like, the cost of which is £780.00 for the bench, £ 80.00 for delivery and £50.00 for the plaque. The wording on the plaque was confirmed as ‘Donated by Friends of Red House Park 2014’. SP stated that the Council would pay for installation. Since the date of this meeting SP has contacted CH to say that he had located a bench that was suitable but less expensive. It was decided to buy the cheaper Bench and discuss the matter again at the next meeting.

4. Park Environment

CH asked SP if any progress had been made on improving the area at the side of the House which the new homes look out on. It is a real mess and will get worse as the weeds reappear. DF recalled that the Council were going to grass the area and said he would refer back to previous minutes when it was discussed.

SL reported that the rubbish is still behind the railings in Hill Lane on the edge of the Bowling Green. She asked SP if anything could be done about it.

BG said it would be good if Paul Reeves could come to one of our meetings to discuss the plantings round the park.

5. Sport and Play Facilities

SV asked about the cost of providing a rope swing for disabled children. SP said the cost was as follows: Swing £3500.00, Installation £3500.00, Carriage £120.00, Additional cost £940.00 making a total cost of £8060.00

6. Any Other Business

DF said that the ‘Dogs Trust Event’ held in conjunction with The Friends Group was a great success again and eighty eight dogs were microchipped.

DF confirmed that he had spoken to the Police and they were aware of the burglaries that had taken place in the Park. Extra patrols had been put on and the police were using the Community Room as a base to police the area.

The Police asked if they could install their own microwave in the Community Room. SV stated that there was already a microwave and toaster in the storeroom. It was suggested that if the Friends Group provided this equipment the Police could be asked to pay for the items to be pat tested.

Next Meeting – 28th April 2014
Paws in the Park – 17th August 2014
Bat Walk – 10th September 2014

Yours sincerely

Lisa Ingram

Secretary F. O.RHP