



Friends of Red House Park

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 11th April 2016

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

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)	Joe McNamara (JM)
David Fisher (DF)	Christine Horton (CH)
Sonia Vaughan (SV)	Sandra Lloyd (SL)
Tom Peel (TP)	Sunish Patel (SP)
Graham Jones (GJ)	
Tom Peel	

Apologies were received from; Steve Melia, Alethea Hegney and Ed O'Neil

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting

Were accepted as a true record

3. No Matters Arising

4. Reports

Chair. – (BG) asked (SP) if the Constitution had been updated. (SP) said that this could be carried out in September at the end of the accounting year. In the meantime (SP) said he would forward a copy of the current constitution to BG

5. **Vice-Chairman** – Opened discussion on having a small fair ride at the Santa in the Park Event in December. It was decided that they hadn't done very well in the past and it wasn't worth pursuing the suggestion.

6. **Secretary** – (CH) did voice a query put by a member of the public. They asked whose responsibility it was, if during an event organised by the 'Friends' the parking in the surrounding roads got so bad that it was blocking the access sufficiently that an ambulance or Fire Engine would not be able to get along the road. (SP) explained to the Group that if this did happen it would not be the responsibility of the Friends Group.

7. **Treasurer** - (AH) sent an email to the Group explaining she would not be able to attend the meetings on a Monday Night for the foreseeable future. (AH) did however explain that she would send a report to be read out at the Meetings

8. **Council** - The Ice Cream Man will be Mr. Simon. (DF) agreed to contact him for Paws in the Park Football will be played on a Thursday night as well until they have played all the games that have been cancelled due to the bad weather.
9. **Events** - Paws in the Park - 24th July 2016
 Santa in the Park - 11th December 2016
 The Bat Walk – 14th September 2016
 (SP) requested the booking forms etc for The Bat Walk
 (DF) will contact Jenny re artwork for forthcoming events.
10. **Environment** – (SL) reported that the tennis nets have been damaged. (SP) said that if we saw damage to the Park Environment we should report it to the Warden on mobile number 07850013777.
 The Group requested (SP) to obtain quotes to renew the line marking on the Tennis Courts. The Friends can also source costing.
 (SP) reported that the ‘Witches Hat’ climbing frame has been removed for repair or replacement
 (SP) has requested that safety matting in the playgrounds should be fixed urgently.
 (SP) will try to get a large, square planter for the Friends to plant up and maintain.
 (GJ) said that six of the box trees were dead and looked very unsightly.
 (GJ) reported that Severn Trent are yet again looking into foul water contamination of the balancing pool.
 (DF) told the Group that he had completed the application form on behalf of the Friends to the Woodlands Trust Tree Pack.
11. **Any Other Business**
 (JM) had a conversation with Nick Liddell from the developers GR8 Spaces.
 The work should start in April 2016 and finish in August 2017
 Nick is happy to maintain a regular communication either via our meeting or a site visit.
 (JM) is agreeable to attend regular site meetings with GR8 Spaces
 Work should start on the Red House at the start of the project.
 There have been no changes affecting the footprint of the development since the planning approval
 JM explained that parking for park users and the risk of future development are the main concern of the Friends Group. (NL) said there is nothing in the pipeline.
 JM suggested to Nick Liddell that it would be appropriate for his company to contribute towards an improvement to Red House Park (NL) said depending on costs and sales this may be possible.
 (NL) said that the car parking for park users will be better surfaced and marked out than at present.
- 12 **Date of Next Meeting - 23rd May 2016**

Action/Wish List of the Friends of Red House Park

1. History of House on a Plaque. – **Will be funded by the English Heritage. (See Reports)**
- 2 The Group pointed out that it was very important to protect the Mulberry Tree and get it fenced off.
 (SP) suggested black fencing to match that used around the pavilion. The Friends can also source costing

 (SV) told the Group that Steve Robinson – Sandwell Tree Manager - would let the Friends have a copy of the Park Tree Survey which lists all the trees in the Park. **(DF) has got the Plaque to put on the Mulberry Tree when it is fenced off.**
3. Replacement Roses and Standard Roses – **passed to Dave Lawley – Grounds Maintenance**
 (SP) reported that a discussion had taken place suggesting that the two rose beds that were in the worst condition should be stripped out, the soil condition improved and new roses planted. If any roses were replantable they could be used to fill in the gaps in the other beds.
(DF) has got the plaque for the Rose Beds.

The Gardener has been appointed and will be starting work in April.

4. Regarding the path from the Pavilion to the main Avenue Path. Julie Lees has e.mailed the Group with an update on the path. She said that the Council have started putting together a bid for the pathway and this will be submitted shortly. She has promised to update us when a decision is made. (SP) informed the group that the path will be wider than discussed previously to enable maintenance vehicles and events traffic access, for bin emptying etc. This would help avoid damage to the football pitches.
5. A Flag or Banner to advertise the Friends are in the Pavilion during a Fun Day etc, During the 'Paws in the Park' the public did not know the Friends were providing refreshments in the Pavilion . . . **(DF) reported that he has got the Banner**
6. Letters repainted on 'Keep off the Grass' notice by the roses. **DF to organise this when the weather permits.**
7. Discussion and completion of the form provided by Julie Lees. It is felt that the funds obtained should be spent on the printing needed for the Events. **The Leaflets have been done. Has the form been submitted.**
8. With reference to the Five a Side Football, the Council commented that the turf laid was not suitable for such hard wear. However it was felt by the Group that the Goal Posts could be moved round and the wear and tear spread over the whole area. It was decided subject to the agreement of (SP)'s Manager that (SP) will order one post for Five a Side Football and install it. Other suggestions for the area were a Sensory Garden and also a War Memorial.
9. (DF) agreed to notify Lynne Barlow that the job we would like done by the Community Payback is the clearing of the area around the pools and spinney.
10. (JM) will continue to send e-mails reminding the Councillors when our meetings are held. (JM) had a short telephone conversation with the Developer asking him the questions the Group would like answers to. (See 'Any Other Business')
11. The Group will contact The Skipton Building Society when we have finally decided what the Group spend their donation on.,
12. The garden for the Cubs to cultivate wild flowers and the position of this garden is still down for discussion.
13. The lights being left on in The Community Room has still not been satisfactorily resolved. (SP) suggested phoning the 'out of hours' rangers 07850013777, when the lights are seen at night.
14. The '106' money that may be available for use at Red House Park is still to be discussed