



Friends of Red House Park

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 4th July 2016

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

1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)

David Fisher (DF)

Christine Horton (CH)

Sandra Lloyd (SL)

Sonia Vaughan (SV)

Graham Jones (GJ)

Tony Ward (TW)

Ed O'Neil (EO)

Eilish O'Callaghan

Joe McNamara (JM)

Apologies were received from Steve Melia, Alethea Hegney and Sunish Patel

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted as a true record

3 No Matters Arising

4. Reports

Chair : (BG) reported that a number of people have complained to him that the entrance to the Park in Newton Road was flooded to a depth where it was not possible to walk through it. This obviously caused a lot of inconvenience when people had to walk all the way round. (BG) also reported that he understood that even after the development of the Red House was completed there would be no more parking spaces available.

Vice – Chairman – No Report

Secretaries – No Report

Treasurer – No Report

Council – (SP) sent a message to say that the Football Season would start on 20th and 21st August 2016

(SP) confirmed that he has the booking form and risk assessment for Paws. He also said that he would not be attending.

Eilish O'Callaghan from the Council attended the meeting to give us details of the help and support she could offer the Friends Group. She explained to us she was the Community Activity Network Development Officer, West Bromwich. Her aim

is to fund sustainable projects that get inactive people active, but does not cover capital costs. After a lot of discussion it was suggested that we apply for funding from CANDO for playgroups run in the park to occupy children in the school holidays. Eilish would organise these and get coaches to run these events. They would aim for age group up to ten. Under eight year olds would need to be registered

5. Environment.

On the day of the meeting the Group were very concerned to see the Park and how untidy it looked. Also the rose beds were full of weeds and looked very neglected. However since that day some of the rose beds have been weeded and the grass has been cut all over.

The Group was told that there is raw sewage in the top lake. It is clearly visible and has got much worse. Surely this must be a health hazard and should be sorted as soon as possible.

6. Any Other Business

The Group are concerned about the state of the community room. Due to the flooding the room is still damp. All of the boxes have been raised off the ground in the storeroom as the water seeped into there as well. Tony Ward said he would look into what could be done to improve the situation.

7. Date of Next Meeting – 5th September 2016 AGM

ACTION/WISH LIST OF THE FRIENDS OF RED HOUSE PARK

1. History of House on a plaque – Will be funded by the English Heritage – **ongoing**
2. The Mulberry Tree – (SP) is seeking advice about how it should be protected. Joe mentions in his report that he discussed its significance with the Developers
3. Replacement Roses – The Group asked Sunish if we could go ahead with the stripping out of the rose beds, the soil improved and new roses planted. Also the gaps in other rose beds filled with any roses that could be saved. (DF) has got the plaque for the rose beds. (CH) also asked (SP) if we could discuss the planting of daffodils (to be purchased by the Friends) with the Gardener who had some good suggestions
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. **Pending an update from Julie Lees**
5. A Flag or Banner to advertise the Friends are in the Pavilion during a Fun Day etc, **(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. (DF) has got the funding form**

8. With reference to the five a side football, (SP) said he had further discussions with members of the Council and they reiterated that the ground was not suitable for five a side football. However the Group have taken this on board but would still like to trial the goalposts.

Andy is seeking a cost for a single mini soccer goal and will send it to the Friends as soon as he receives it

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) said that he would keep up regular communication with the developers GR8 Space and attached to these Minutes is a Report from Joe giving details of his recent meeting. (JM) also told the Group that he would organise a meeting with the local Councillors and if necessary make it on another evening if that suited them better.
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 Group need to decide what we are fundraising for as it always a question we are asked by the general public at these events –continued funding to improve facilities in the park.
14. The Group would like to retain the black fencing which is not required by Gr8space along Hill Lane and use it elsewhere in the Park. This needs to be confirmed with Sandwell MBC and Gr8space as soon as possible.