



# Friends of Red House Park

## Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016

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

### 1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)

Christine Horton (CH)

Sandra Lloyd (SL)

Sonia Vaughan (SV)

Jean Jones (JJ)

Ed O'Neil (EO)

Joe McNamara (JM)

Alethea Hegney (AH)

Apologies were received from Steve Melia, David Hosell, Graham Jones and David Fisher

The Committee all stated that they were happy to be re-elected in their current positions for the coming year.

### 2 Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted as a true record

### 3 No Matters Arising

### 4. Reports

**Chair :** (BG) told the Group that the problem with the lakes goes back many years. In 2007 a considerable amount of money was spent in clearing up the lakes but the problem keeps coming back. Severn Trent are currently unable to gain access to the properties to ascertain where the pipes are connected incorrectly. The Group felt that we need to contact Councillors to see if they could make any headway into solving this serious health hazard. (JM) to contact David Hosell to move things along.

**Vice – Chairman –** (DF) sent his apologies but reported that a Group had hired the Community Room for a fee of fifty pounds and had also hired a cleaner to clean up afterwards.

**Secretaries –** (CH) asked members of the Group to send copies to the Secretaries of any e-mails that are sent out on behalf of the 'Friends'

**Treasurer –** Now all the figures are in for 'Paws in the Park' the accounts will be produced for the year end. It was confirmed that stock levels are approximately the same as 2015

**Council** – No report

5. **Events** - The Group felt that ‘Paws in the Park’ was successful. Although it started with a certain amount of chaos because the ‘Friends’ did not have the correct key to open the main gates in Hill Lane and all the traffic had to be redirected to the Newton Road entrance. It was suggested that if possible any future Paws in the Park be held earlier in July (before schools break up) and finish earlier in the day.

As for the tennis coaching, that was a big success.

The Bat Walk on 14<sup>th</sup> September for the general public and the 21<sup>st</sup> for the cubs is all in hand.

6. **Environment** – (SL) asked for the following items to be included in the Minutes and brought to the attention of the Council

Newton Road Entrance pot holes are now so deep that water builds up when it rains heavily and it is not possible to walk through it

The pot holes in the surface of the Tennis Courts

The Tennis Court Gates remain padlocked

The surface of the children’s play area is lifting and is a hazard to the children

The old notices have not been removed from the Notice Boards

7. **Any Other Business** – (SV) suggested to the Group that we bought our own ‘Walkie Talkies’ The Group agreed that this was a good idea and that prices should be obtained. Also it would be useful if we had some litter pickers.

The Group thanked Joe, Roy and Andy for their litter picking services during the duration of ‘Paws’ and also the Group and the Council would like to thank the members of the public who litter pick whilst dog walking on a regular basis.

(SL) has been asked by a member of the public who would like to purchase a bench and plaque in memory of her son who loved Red House Park. This to be agreed with Sunish and the lady informed of any council restrictions on memorial benches etc and the cost.

8. **Next Meeting – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October in the Pavilion.**

### **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. The Group feels that in view of the building work it should be pruned as soon as possible because the branches are almost touching the building.
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. After discussion with the Gardener the order has now been sent to the Council for the daffodil bulbs.

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. It was used during Paws and was very effective.**
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. See note below.

Andy has forwarded a cost for the goalpost which is around £750.00. A suggestion has been made by the people who run the Tennis Sessions for Sandwell Council, that this land would be suitable for a grass tennis court. This needs to be discussed with a member of the Council at the next meeting.

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) is going to arrange another meeting with the developers GR8 Space and ask them about several items that the Group have raised. He invited other group members to join him if they wanted to.  
  
(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.