



Friends of Red House Park

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 9th January 2017

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

Attendance and Apologies for Absence:

Bill Gunn (BG)
Sonia Vaughan (SV)
Sandra Lloyd (SL)
Joe McNamara (JM)
Shirley Hosell (SH)
David Hosell (DH)
Graham Jones (GJ)
Alethea Hegney (AH)
David Fisher (DF)

Apologies were received from:

Steve Melia, Ed O'Neil, Christine Horton, Dudley Hutchinson

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Were accepted as a true record

No Matters Arising

Reports:

Chair - (BG) Opened the meeting by wishing all the members a happy and prosperous new year. This is the 15th year of the group.

Vice Chair- No Report.

Secretary - No Report.

Treasurer - (AH) informed the meeting that the Friends of Red House Park bank balance is very healthy and a Statement of income and expenditure has been sent to the Council.

Council - (SP) Update on action points for last meeting (28th November)

- Ground maintenance for bottom end of park and wooded area has started. All the trees have been feathered, the banks cut and the shrubs have been flailed. Paul Cresswell's team will continue with it in the new year and then look to keep on top of it throughout the year. The Friends think it looks better. Good news.
- Sandwell Naturalists request to conduct a moth count. Sunish is happy for this to happen but will need a risk assessment before it starts. S.V. will liase with Sandwell Naturalists and consult with the immediate neighbours of the count site as soon as a date is known.

- Black fencing with ball tops not required by Gr8space to be retained by FRHP. This would be somebody from the council's property service section as they would have the contact details for the developer. (JM) confirms in his report that the developer is aware of our intention to use any of the old fencing around the Mulberry Tree.
- Playground surface lifting. This has been picked up by Andy Tromans
- Notice boards. This has been passed to Gary Bell
- Zip wire. Awaiting parts.

Events - Santa in the Park 2016 was again successful and seemed to be enjoyed by adults and children alike. It's always a lovely family event. Many thanks to everyone involved.

2017 marks the 200th anniversary of Princess Charlotte's death. Princess Charlotte was the only child of the Prince Regent and the presumed heir to the British throne. Had she not died in childbirth in 1817 aged 21 she would have been Queen of England instead of Victoria. This year, in commemoration, we plan to hold a family celebration of the park instead of Paws in the Park. This is still in the early planning stages.

Environment. - **The Group are waiting to hear if we can have a planter for the park as mentioned at a previous meeting.**

ONGOING POLLUTION/HEALTH HAZARD of balancing pool – still ongoing. SV told The meeting that on 06/01/2017 a Longleat resident was informed on site by Severn Trent that the problem will be solved in two weeks.

A new drainage channel and surface replacement has been done at Newton Road gates. Hopefully this will solve the flooding problem here.

The 5aside goal post bought with Skipton Building Society Grass Roots funding has been installed on the old bowling green

Tennis courts- **surface repairs have been carried out but are rough and white lines have not been repainted. Does not appear to be fit for the purpose.**

The gate remains padlocked. If it cannot be unlocked, SL suggested extensions could be welded as needed to the bottom of the gates and fencing to prevent balls rolling out of the courts. As at Ferndale Road school gates.

Any Other Business – The Friends were very pleased to see Councillors Shirley and David Hosell at the meeting. They were very helpful with their advice to the group on funding, and contacts. They have kindly pledged to donate £50 towards the Commemorative Family celebration event. David Hosell was not happy about the lack of Council representation at the FRHP meetings. He asked for a list of items requiring Council action to be emailed to him.

Next Meeting – TUESDAY 21ST February 2017

ACTION/WISH LIST OF THE FRIENDS AND THE COUNCIL

1. (DF) History of House on a plaque – Will be funded by the English Heritage – **ongoingwhen development work complete.**
2. (COUNCIL) The care of the Mulberry Tree has been passed to the Tree Gang - **ongoing**
3. (COUNCIL) Replacement Roses and Standard Roses. This was passed to Dave Lawley-Grounds Maintenance. It was suggested in April 2016 that the two rose beds in the worse condition should be stripped out, the soil condition improved and new rose planted. If any roses were in good replantable condition they could be used to fill gaps. - **ongoing**
4. (COUNCIL) Access path from the Pavilion car park to the main Avenue Path. Julie Lees is dealing **Waiting for information from the Council as to the current position of this path which is urgently required for disability access to the park from Pages Lane/pavilion car park. We need a date when this will be acted upon. It was first discussed when the development application was passed.**
5. (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 **-ongoing**
6. (JM) will continue to have regular meetings with the Developers and will report back to the Group. HIS REPORT for 06.01.2017 IS ATTACHED
7. The garden for the Cubs to cultivate wild flowers and the position of this garden is **still down for discussion.**
8. The Group would like to retain the black fencing with the ball tops that match the pavilion and which is not required by Gr8space along Hill Lane to use it elsewhere in the Park. **See Sunish's report and Joe's developer meeting report.**
9. (COUNCIL) The surface of the children's play area is still lifting and is very dangerous. We understand this is a priority and the work has gone out to tender..picked up by Andy Tromans
10. (COUNCIL)The notice boards need keeping up to date and repairing where necessary.It was mentioned at a previous meeting that the foggy Perspex would be replaced by Sandwell MBC **This has been passed to Gary Bell** Difficult to see if this has been done as the Perspex in some boards is so dirty and scratched.
11. (COUNCIL) Tennis Courts. Surface repairs. The new surfacing is rough and the white lines have not been repainted. It does not appear to be fit for the purpose.
Padlocked gates to tennis courts. A possible solution would be to weld an extension to the bottom of the gates and fencing (as the Council have done at Ferndale Road school gates.) This would prevent the balls from rolling under and out of the courts.
12. (COUNCIL) The Zip Wire repair. Awaiting parts. We need a date please when this equipment will be up and running as it's very popular and in demand.