



# Friends of Red House Park

## General Meeting Minutes

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> February 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)

Christine Horton (CH)

Steve Melia (SM)

Joe McNamara (JM)

Tony Fowler

Sunish Patel (SP)

### Apologies were received from

Dave Fisher, Ed O'Neil, Alethea Hegney

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted as a true record

### No Matters Arising

### Reports

**Chair** - (BG)

**Vice Chair** No Report

**Secretary** - No Report

**Treasurer** – No Report

**Council** – The updates to the Council items are included in the relevant sections of the Action / Wish List

**Events** The Friends are discussing a new event which is just in the planning stage  
The Bat Walk – details are to be finalised including the date

Sunish told the Group that the Funfair was coming again this year around April, he would confirm the date to the Friends.

A date of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September has been suggested for the Moth Count. This has to be confirmed and Sunish requires a risk assessment to be done (SV) will liaise with the organisers

**Environment.** The Group asked Sunish about the Planter. He said he had enquired but there was not one available.

An oil slick was reported on the island pool at the beginning of January and this is being monitored also the pollution in the pools which should be clearing gradually after being attended to although the pool is still murky

Andy Tromans and Joe met with the Developer essentially to discuss the extra parking spaces in the car park. It is hoped that nine or ten spaces can be created instead of the seven planned. It will depend on the provision of disabled parking spaces. Joe's report is attached to these minutes (SV) mentioned the Friends planting flowering garlic, snowdrops and bluebells in the dell. She will liaise with Paul Cresswell and our Gardener Paul Cotterill

#### **Any Other Business –**

The Friends reported flooding in the toilets and changing rooms. Andy Tromans feels it is due to damp and condensation. Also the level of the ground externally is higher than internally which is contributing to the problem

(SP) asked about the litter after the football. It was pointed out by the Friends that it would be much worse but some of the dog walkers do such a good job of clearing it up when they go round with their dogs

CH told the Group that we had a painting of the 'Red House' as it was and invited suggestions how we could use this painting to produce cards etc to sell at the events we hold. It was decided that we will offer the 'History of the Park booklets' as prizes at our next event.

**Next Meeting – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017**

### **ACTION/WISH LIST OF THE FRIENDS AND THE COUNCIL**

1. History of House on a plaque – Will be funded by the English Heritage – **ongoing**
2. The care of the Mulberry Tree has been passed to the Tree Gang
3. The plan is still to replace the old roses and rejuvenate the rose beds. **Sunish said it was under discussion. If the Council prepare the beds the Friends would be willing to plant the roses**
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. Steve Melia said he also has had his say about the necessity for this path but he suggested a path that would not be so expensive as the one that the council require. There is no funds from the Council for this more expensive path. A suggestion was made to apply for lottery funding for this.

- 5 The five a side goal post which was bought with the money from Skipton Building Society has been installed and is being used correctly by the older boys. There was a query by the Friends that we had requested two. So this is being checked out. Update since the meeting. The second goal post is in the Gardener's Compound awaiting location instructions from the Group.
- 6 It was agreed that the Group would ask Ed to approach the Community Payback to ask them to clear up the rubbish in the fencing on the edge of the park on Hill Lane
- 7 (JM) has had a meeting with the Developer essentially about extra parking spaces being created in the car park. This is dealt with under 'environment'
8. The Group would like to retain the black fencing with the ball tops that match the pavilion fencing which is not required by Gr8space along Hill Lane and use it elsewhere in the Park. Sunish told the Group that a site visit would be organised to see where the fence could be used. The Developer is well aware that we want to use the fencing somewhere else in the park
- 9 The work done at the Newton Road entrance has vastly improved the flooding in that area and It is now possible to go through the entrance without getting wet feet !! It has been reported that the gates at the Newton Road entrance are not lockable
10. The surface of the children's play area is still lifting and is considered dangerous by the Friends but the Council consider this to be low risk. This work has gone out to tender.
- 11 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 and they are now being attended to.
- 12 Repairs have been carried out to the surface of the tennis courts and the gates unlocked.. The Line marking is still to be done in the summer These Courts are still being used in the winter so they do need to be in good order.
13. The parts for the Zip Wire have been ordered