



Friends of Red House Park

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 3rd April 2017
Venue: The Pavilion, Red House Park, Newton Road, Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Sonia Vaughan (SV)	Sunish Patel (SP)
Sandra Lloyd (SL)	Graham Jones
Christine Horton (CH)	
Keith Wild	
Julie Lees	
David Fisher (DF)	

Apologies were received from: Joe McNamara, Steve Melia, Bill Gunn and S & D Hosell

Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted as a true record

No Matters Arising

Reports

Chair - (BG) Sent his apologies

Vice Chair No Report

Secretary - No Report

Treasurer – No Report

Council – (SP) explained to the Group that this year the Council do not intend to take down the Goal Posts which is normal practice during the summer. The remedial work to the pitches will still be done and it remains to be seen how successful this will be without taking down the posts (SV) told (SP) that top soil for this purpose was taking up two parking spaces and asked if this could be moved.

(SP) also confirmed that Andy Tromans would meet with members of the Friends Group on Thursday 6th April for a walkabout to discuss the bins, suggested locations of the fencing and other items brought up at the meeting.

Events

The planned Event on 27th August is still in the planning stage. The Play Bus and the Game Wagon have been booked. (SP) has asked that the Booking Forms and Risk Assessment forms be sent in as soon as possible.

There is some discussion within the Council that a charge will be made for these Events but (SP) said that he hoped this would not be the case if, on the application form, it is pointed out that we are the Friends Group investing in the park. (DF) said he will do that when he sends the forms in.

Bat Walk – The dates of this event are to be confirmed and the exact details. (DF) is going to organise it.

The Moth Count will take place on 6th September 2017. (SV) will liaise with the moth group

(SP) told the Group that the Ice Cream Van for these events and the park in general would be Mr. Simon for this coming year.

Environment

(GJ) reported that the pollution was still coming into the lake. He felt it was from another inlet although it has cleared up a lot compared with what it was. He is going to report his sightings to Severn Trent. (SV) asked if a water sample test could be taken by the polluting inlet pipe. (SP) said he will ask but thinks it would be Severn Trent.

Most of the fallen trees have been cleared away. GOOD NEWS – Since the meeting all the Fallen trees have been cleared. Thank you Sandwell Council

(SV) reported that the large tree outside the house, is surrounded with a planter made of slabs some of which are falling away and need putting back.

(DF) told the Group that the public are making a pathway from the main path to the car park around the scaffolding. This is destroying the grass and making the area look a real mess.

Any Other Business

The Group send their congratulations to Joe and Louise on the birth of their son Eddy.

(SP) told the Group that he is looking for ways of involving all the Friends Groups to put together funding applications.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 6th May 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. The list of rose varieties already planted have been lost but since the meeting (SV) has identified what is planted in five of the seven rose beds. These are 'iceberg (white) 'Fragrant Delight' (copper orange) 'Trumpeteer' (red) Arthur Bell (yellow) and Amber Queen (amber yellow) If the Council prepare the beds the Friends would be willing to plant the roses

- 4 Julie Lees attended the meeting and confirmed to the Group that all plans for the main Avenue Path have been abandoned due to lack of Council funds The Friends are still pursuing this Item for disabled access from the Pavilion Car Park to the rest of the Park..
- 5 The Five a Side Posts have been temporarily put in the Gardener's compound as they had been taken out of the ground and left. It has been decided to put them in the ground permanently. welded
- 6 The Group felt that the Community Payback plans will be put on hold at the moment.
- 7 (JM) will organise another meeting shortly with the Developer. \
- 8 Since the meeting Andy Tromans has been round the Park with members of the Friends Group. He noted the suggested places for the fencing and said that five bins needed replacing, several needed repairing and some could be re-sited
- 9 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 . **Ongoing**
- 10 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. **Ongoing**
- 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 being used in the winter so they do need to be in good order.
13. The parts for the Zip Wire have been ordered . Since the meeting the zip wire is now up and Running. THANK YOU SANDWELL MBC