



# Friends of Red House Park

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
Venue: The Pavilion, Red House Park, Newton Road, Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

### Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)	Graham Jones (GJ)
Sonia Vaughan (SV)	Darrell Magher (DM)
Christine Horton (CH)	Keith Wild (KW)
David Fisher (DF)	Ian Carroll (IC)
Alethea Hegney (AH)	
Joe McNamara(JM)	

**Apologies** were received from: Steve Melia, David and Shirley Hosell and Sandra Lloyd

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted as a true record

### No Matters Arising

Bill thanked everyone for all their hard work during the year. All members resigned and were re-elected in the same position. These are as follows:

Bill Gunn – Chairman  
David Fisher – Vice Chair  
Alethea Hegney – Treasurer  
Sonia Vaughan, Sandra Lloyd and Christine Horton - Secretaries

### Reports

**Chair** - (BG) stated that fifteen years ago the pools were polluted and a lot of money was spent to clean them out. They are still polluted and (BG) wants the Council to seek lottery funding to clean them out again

(BG) handed out up to date copies of the Group's Constitution to all members of the Friends Group

**Vice Chair** - (DF) told the Group that we should be aiming for Green Flag Status. He said that he would try and find out from the Council what we had to do to get this status. It has been discussed many times but we have not moved forward in establishing what we have to do

**Secretary** - Nothing to report

**Treasurer** – (AH) told the Group that we had five thousand pounds in the bank and the accounts would be prepared and ready for the next meeting

**Council** – There was no representative from the Council and no report had been sent.

**Events** - (BG) told the Group that the Bat Walk, which has been very popular over the years with children and parents, had to be cancelled because the footballers took all the parking spaces and the parents had to turn their cars round and leave. There is another Bat Walk on 20<sup>th</sup> September so it is hoped that this event will be able to take place

(CH) told the Group that Sonia and Sandra had put a lot of work into the event on 27<sup>th</sup> August. Everyone who attended enjoyed that event very much but (SV) felt that the numbers were down on last year. The Group felt that one of the reasons was that Sandwell Valley held an event at the same time. It was also bank holiday.

**Environment** – Members of the Swan Watch told the Group that the island needed emptying and clearing out.

(DF) told the Group that he was interested in purchasing some ‘woodland faces’ to put in the woods and create a ‘face trail’.

**Any Other Business** – Joe saw the Developer on 28<sup>th</sup> July and the following is his report

Fifty per cent of the houses and flats are sold  
Chimney Pots removed with council agreement as some are beyond repair.  
Three additional spaces have been added at the Hill Lane car park.  
Completion is still planned for this year.  
Next Meeting proposed 13<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Diary – Events to come**

Santa in the Park – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Next Meeting** – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 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. There has been no movement on behalf of the Council to sort out the Rose Beds. The Group would like the plans to be finalised and the area tidied up. **COUNCIL ACTION**
4. Sunish confirmed that the plans for the main avenue path had been abandoned and it had been decided to make the disabled parking next to the house. It was agreed by the Group to pursue all possibilities to get the path installed. One idea put forward was to approach a ‘charity arm’ of a large waste company and see if they would be willing to do it.
5. The second goal post has not been installed properly. **COUNCIL ACTION NEEDED**
6. (JM) has organised another meeting with the Developer on 13<sup>th</sup> October.
8. In April Andy Tromans walked 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 - **Ongoing**

- 9 The surface of the children's play area is lifting and is considered dangerous by the Friends  
The work is planned to be done **Ongoing 2016 Council**
- 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 . The old notices need to be taken out of the Notice  
Board. **COUNCIL ACTION**
- 11 The Box Conifers that have died need taking out of the flower beds. **Council**
- 12 (SV) pointed out that there is a broken drain cover that is starting to sink in the Pavilion  
Car Park **Council Action**