



Friends of Red House Park

Minutes of the **General Meeting**

Date: Monday 8th January 2018

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

Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)

Darrell Magher

Sandra Lloyd

Christine Horton

Sonia Vaughan

Apologies were received from: Steve Melia, Ian Carroll, Graham Jones, David Fisher

Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted as a true record

No Matters Arising

Bill Gunn wished everyone a happy new year and thanked those that turned up for Santa in the Park.

Reports

Chair - (BG) informed the Group that we needed to buy six more Bat Detectors to make the number up to twenty. The Group agreed to look into this.

Vice Chair - (DF) No report

Secretary - Nothing to report

Treasurer The accounts will be ready for Audit at the next meeting

Diary – Events to come

(SV) told the Group that the takings from the Bat Walk were 87.00 not 80.00

The takings banked from Santa in the Park were 332.10. The Group felt that considering the weather the event was very successful and we are all grateful to Joe stepping in at the last minute to fulfil the job of Father Christmas

Any Other Business

It was suggested to look into **OVERAGE** payments to the council from the developer for funding of some of the work needed doing in the park.

Next Meeting – TUESDAY 6th February 7pm at the Pavilion.

POOLS:

Pollution: Since the meeting (SV) emailed Severn Trent on 9th January 2018 to follow up on the second part of their Survey. This is weather and resources dependent and will be done as soon as possible. The group will be notified of results.

Clearance of Pools of litter and other debris: Currently being priced by Hills Environmental (the council contractor for this type of work) Work will be undertaken subject to funding. There is also concern that cows' urine is being used as an antifreeze on the roads and therefore will run off into the park pools. Council checking if this is the case.

Swan nesting site on folly pool island: No Council resources available to clear and maintain through Grounds Maintenance but should funding be available then the council would consider undertaking this work.

The seepage of water and mud which spills across the balancing pool pathway - Action Drains attended the site in September 2017 and report that there is an issue with the land drains in this location. Council awaiting recommendations to rectify the issue.

DISABLED PATHWAY: Although we were told there were no funds for the pathway we have now been told by two Sandwell Councillors that it will go ahead. John Satchwell is getting prices for a membrane and tarmac pathway. It is thought that '106' monies may be available for the pathway. Awaiting council update.

PLAY AREAS: We understand that the work has been done and (SV) is seeking confirmation that the work has been completed in all play areas.

TENNIS COURTS: It was agreed by the FRHP and the Council to remove the Poplar Tree by the small tennis court to prevent its roots causing further damage to the court. It was also agreed that the tennis court gates leading to the football pitches could be locked as long as the fencing along that line was extended to prevent the tennis balls from rolling under. The Gates have had the extensions welded on but not the fencing. Awaiting council update

FIVE A SIDE FOOTBALL GOAL POSTS: We understand that the second goal post has been Installed on the old bowling green but not sure if it has been welded in. Awaiting council update

ZIP WIRE: This has been vandalised again and will be repaired as soon as possible. It has been suggested by council that we carry several spares so that all the Zip Wires in the borough can be repaired as needed.

NOTICE BOARDS: New Perspex now in stock and the old will be replaced as soon as possible. It has been suggested that the Friends can utilise and update the notice boards in the future.

FLOWER BEDS: Graham Jones asked that the Friends request the Council keep the rose beds weed free during the year.

The Group felt that the proposed plans from Darren Jones looked very nice but would be high maintenance. Our comments were taken back for discussion with Darren Jones. (SV) asked if the ground preparation work could be carried out now before the final design is agreed.

DEAD BOX TREES: These Box Trees are unsightly and the Group feel that a review of the planting at the Newton Road entrance would greatly improve the entrance to the Park. Reported to the Arboriculture Team and Grounds Maintenance. Awaiting council update.

TREE MAINTENANCE: Lime trees. Feathering of the trees is scheduled to be undertaken by the Arboriculture Team during the winter. Any other perceived issues with these trees will be undertaken during this period.

MULBERRY TREES: The Mulberry Tree planted in 1605 has now been fenced for protection. The Group discussed whether the other mulberry tree should be protected. It is believed that we have got enough fencing if it is decided to do so. It was agreed to monitor it for the time being.

BLACK METAL FENCING: There are four sections left in the developer's compound which should be returned and put in the Gardener's Compound with the rest. It is understood that all the fencing will then have been returned to Sandwell MBC for re use in the park.

DAMP IN THE PAVILION AND STORE ROOMS: Reported to Building Services in 2016 and Tamworth Construction were issued a works order to look at rectifying the issue. Progress of these works has been requested from Building Services.

GENERAL GRAFFITI: To be reported on 0121 569 2200 or via the Sandwell website. It's recommended that Sandwell clean the Notice Board graffiti because the cleaner they use is less abrasive.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKS: Discussions with Grounds Maintenance are currently taking place. A significant amount of work needs to be done within the woodland area and the council are planning to do this over an extended period of time to ensure that the area is useable. A meeting is being arranged for January with the Friends and council to discuss the future of the woodland areas and how we can move forward.

LITTER: Footballers are being monitored for litter left after games and the leagues have been told that if the problem persists then some teams may not be able to utilise council owned pitches in the future. Notices to be put up in the changing rooms. Hill Lane double fencing litter problem.....reported to Serco to clear. John Satchwell will get the FRHP six litter pickers.

BELL TOWER AND CHIMNEY POTS REMOVED FROM THE RED HOUSE: Planning Department have been contacted. Ongoing

BINS: All done except the bin by the bench on the pathway down to the woodland area. The dangerous base has been removed but the bin still to be replaced by council. S.V following up.

GOOD NEWS: THERE WAS A FLURRY OF ACTIVITY IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER...BINS WERE DONE, WOODEN BOLLARDS REPLACED AT HILL LANE, SECOND GOAL POST INSTALLED, BENCH REPOSITIONED, FENCING BETWEEN THE POOLS MAKING A BRIDGE EFFECT (looks very nice and also safer), MULBERRY FENCED, PLAY AREAS AND SMALL TENNIS COURT RESURFACING WORK DONE