



# Friends of Red House Park

## Minutes of the General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Venue: The Pavilion, Red House Park, Newton Road, Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

### Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn  
David fisher  
Sandra Lloyd  
Christine Horton  
Steve Melia

Graham Jones  
Darrell Magher  
Joe McNamara  
Alethea Hegney

**Apologies** were received from Sonia Vaughan and Gurdyal Gandham

### Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted as a true record

### Matters Arising

No matters arising

### Reports

**Chair** Bill told the Group that he was so pleased with the look of the Park. It looks so much better for all the work that has been done. The daffodils that were planted last year look really lovely despite the weather

**Vice Chair.** David told the Group that an Events Company has approached him with a view to holding a 'Wizfit for kids' in the Park which would be a one day event. (DF) said he would approach the Council and find out more information from the Events Company

Steve Melia told the Group that he frequently brings officers from Sandwell round the Park to show them what has been achieved

**Secretary** No Report

**Treasurer** The Accounts are now done and available to anyone who would like to see them.

## **Diary – Events to come**

Bat Walk – 10<sup>th</sup> September and 17<sup>th</sup> September

Santa in the Park 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## **Any Other Business**

(JM) told the Group that he was still trying to contact the Developer for a further update.

The Group asked Steve Melia about money that might be available to us. He explained that the system has changed. Now any application you make can only be made once a year. We have to contact the Neighbourhood office, either Melissa or Sarah, and they will come and speak to us and discuss what is required

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

### **POOLS:**

Severn Trent have taken a further water test sample and although slightly higher than last time it is still considered to be a low reading  
No toilet waste was observed. They will be re-attending with the CCTV Van to complete the survey of local sewers when the weather permits. NO UPDATE

### **DISABLED PATHWAY:**

Construction of this path is being priced up and it is proposed to carry out the work in Spring 2018.  
Discussion took place within the Group about a small pathway being put between the car park in Hill Lane and the Play Areas. Although some members feel we don't need any more paths it was pointed out that people are walking back and forth on this area anyway. NO UPDATE

**TENNIS COURTS:** The Poplar Tree hasn't been removed as yet. (SV) is going to contact John Satchwell. The fencing has not been done either as far as we know.

**FIVE A SIDE FOOTBALL GOAL POSTS:** One has been welded in, the other is fixed but not Welded. The most important issue is the dog fouling of this area. We would like an official Notice to go up from the Council to try and stop this.

**ZIP WIRE:** Still waiting for parts

**NOTICE BOARDS:** New Perspex now in stock and the old will be replaced as soon as possible  
The Group are sorting out access to the Notice Boards so we can put items of interest in them including a map of the park. We have now got access to these Boards. We Haven't heard anything about the site map yet but hopefully will hear shortly.

**BEDS:** Darren Jones is redesigning the rose bed area and will liaise with the Friends when he has done so and before moving forward with any planting.(SV)will email him for any

updates. One will be adopted by the Friends for plants of their choice. We have asked if the area could be rotovated and decent topsoil put on it. (DF) is going to buy some young plants to start it off.

**DEAD BOX TREES:** These will be removed by the Gardening Gang

**WOODLAND GROUND MAINTENANCE.** It is suggested that the area be cleared and then we wait to see what grows before any further clearance is carried out. The Group put forward many suggestions for the area including plants and wildlife. Hedgehogs, owls, birds etc. could be introduced to the area. Ideas are to be discussed in future meetings as work progresses. We have asked for a copy of any tree surveys from D. Jones to give us some idea as to what species we have in the park.

The tree work in the park has been carried out by an outside contractor. The trees that were identified as being sick, overcrowded or were dangerous have been felled but we do not know of the plans for replanting. Hopefully the wood that can be chipped will be used in the park for paths etc. I think we are now in the period of birds nesting so no more cutting back will be allowed.

**WHITE HORNBEAM** – It would appear that some weight reduction cutting back has been carried out on the branches overhanging the pool. With less weight on that side of the tree hopefully it will prevent it leaning further and the tree will survive.

**BINS.** All done except one which the Council will do. The Group reported a lot of problems with one of the bins being vandalised and thrown in the pool. Serco have re-sited it but it hasn't solved the problem

**DAMP** – The Property Maintenance Team have been asked what is being done about the problem

**JOHN SATCHWELL** – informed (SV) that there is going to be a tarmac hard-standing at the end of The pavilion fencing, near to where the new pathway will be. A storage unit for the Gardener's equipment will be put on it and the whole thing will be enclosed

**GREEN FLAG STATUS** – The Group would appreciate an update on the application for Green Flag Status...

The updates discussed at the meeting have been included in this set of minutes.