



Friends of Red House Park

Minutes of the General Meeting

Date: Monday 14th May 2018
Venue: The Pavilion, Red House Park, Newton Road, Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn
Sandra Lloyd
Christine Horton
Graham Jones

Joe McNamara
Sonia Vaughan

Apologies were received from Alethea Hegney, David Fisher.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted as a true record

Matters Arising

No matters arising

Reports

Chair. BG asked if there was still someone monitoring the swans. SV said there is still a swan watch and she would follow it up and get the younger swans taken off the lake and relocated.

Vice Chair. DF sent a note to the meeting. He will follow up the car park. The booking for Wizz Fit has to go through the Council and they will charge them for the park hire. DF is not sure whether they will still go ahead.

Secretary CH reported that a member of the public has given her photographs to the Group as a record of the plantings going back fifty years. The Group are going to have a meeting to decide how best to display them and keep them for the future. They would like to put on record how grateful we are for this gift.

The Friends have received a lot of e-mails from local residents who are very concerned about the new policy of the Council not to lock the gates at night. This will increase access to the Park for gangs

intent on criminal activities and also will make it easier for Travellers to come into the Park. The security post at the end of the car park was down over the bank holiday leading to cars going into the park and parking on the grass. Although a member of the public put it back it was damaged and down again next day.

Treasurer No Report

Diary – Events to come

Bat Walk – 10th September and 17th September

Santa in the Park 9th December 2018

Any Other Business

JM has contacted the Developer again. He has now replied saying he will give some money to the Friends to spend as they wish when the houses are all sold.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY 4th JUNE 2018

POOLS : Update from Severn Trent re pollution of the balancing pool. On 1st May a CCTV Crew have surveyed more sewerage connections and located a misconnection at a rental property (which explains the intermittent nature of the pollution observed in the pool) Severn Trent are following up on the observations and will be serving a notice to get the misconnections rectified. There is still more surveying to be done. The difficulty is finding misconnections if it is rental properties

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 – A notice is needed in this area to try and stop people letting their dogs off the lead and fouling the pitch.

ZIP WIRE: It was to be fixed last week but it still has not been done.

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 has said that one of the teams from Grounds Maintenance are going to mark out the beds in the next couple of weeks. If the Friends are happy with the design then they will cut the shapes out. The flower bed belonging to the Friends has been prepared and SV went over the plantings with the Group. The flowers will be

delivered in the next two weeks

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...

SV has chased up some of the jobs that are on this list and hopefully we will have an update for the next meeting.