



# Friends of Red House Park

## Minutes of the General Meeting

Date: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
Venue: The Pavilion, Red House Park, Newton Road, Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

### Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn	Lorraine Binsley
David fisher	Darryl Magher
Sandra Lloyd	Sonia Vaughan
Alethea Hegney	
Steve Melia	

**Apologies** were received from Christine Horton

**Minutes of the previous meeting** were accepted as a true record

### Matters Arising

No matters arising

### Reports

**Chair.** Bill Gunn suggested that notices be put on all entrances to the park stating that all dogs must be on a lead inside the park in accordance with the existing bylaws. This follows the sad death of our male breeding swan due to a dog attack.

Bill has also had complaints that families have been frightened by dogs off their lead running up to them particularly when they are having a picnic or eating. Some families have told him that they will not be visiting the park again until such notices go up on the gates.

**Vice Chair.** David Fisher 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. The FRHP could sell refreshments and raise funds for the park. Activities include Tug of War, Nerf Wars and Dodge Ball. (DF) said he would liaise with the Council and hopefully arrange for the event to take place on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018 between 1.30pm and 4.30pm

**Secretary.** Sonia Vaughan gave an update from John Satchwell :  
Grounds maintenance will go round the park with Bowsers and water the FRHP newly planted flower bed and also the plants in the planter around the tree near to Hill Lane gate. Regular visits with the Bowser would be scheduled in.

**Treasurer.** Nothing to report.

**Council.** No Report

## **Diary – Events to come**

Wizfit for kids in the park - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018 between 1.30pm and 4.30pm (TO BE CONFIRMED)

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**

- The “drop bollard” at Hill Lane car park has been vandalised so it can’t be raised to prevent cars from entering the park. This poses a danger to park users and S.V. will report it to John Satchwell.
- Park gates not being locked at night is causing concern to park users and local residents. Does this happen borough wide? S.V. will ask John Satchwell if this is now council policy.
- S.L. asked a group of 14 year old boys what they would like in the park. They said more benches, swings and solar lights around the MUGA.
- A blue tooth shelter was discussed and S.M. suggested asking a bus company if they would donate one.
- S.L. has concerns about fast driving and road safety on Hill Lane. She asked if speed bumps could be installed along the road. S.M. said that this is a road safety issue and funding would be through government grants. S.M. said he would look into it. CVS give help with form filling when applying for funding.
- D.M. questioned what budget is available to Red House Park, what Overage funding is available and any available funding opportunities in general.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018 AT 7pm in the Pavilion

## UPDATES

### POOLS:

End of April 2018 Severn Trent attended to progress their pollution misconnections survey. One property with a misconnection was located. The property has to be tested and notice served to remedy the misconnection. Severn Trent still have surveying work to carry out, so there may be some other misconnected properties to find. NO UPDATE SINCE 1<sup>st</sup> MAY

### PAVILION PATHWAY:

Pavilion pathway is still on the agenda and a quick consultation exercise with residents is being carried out.

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. Still open for discussion. 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: Perspex is being replaced as part of the replacement of all those that have become frosted around the borough and is on the long list of jobs that the council's Facilities Officer is dealing with. We haven't heard anything about the site map yet but hopefully we will hear shortly.

BEDS: Update from Darren Jones is that the proposed new Council flower beds were due to be marked out in June and agreed by the friends but no further information is available.

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 Darren 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. Trees that were identified as being sick, overcrowded or were dangerous have been felled but we do not know of any plans for replanting.

BINS. All done except one on the path down to the woodland and pools which the Council will do. The council asked if the friends would object to the removal of the bin at Wilderness Lane after repeated vandalism. The friends agreed that they have no objection to the removal of this bin inside the park **provided** that an alternative on-street bin will be provided on Longleat/Wilderness Lane to replace it.

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. NO FURTHER INFORMATION.

GREEN FLAG STATUS – Green Flag judging is due to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The decision should be known in a couple of months.