



Friends of Red House Park

Minutes of the General Meeting

Date: Monday 6th August 2018
Venue: The Pavilion, Red House Park, Newton Road, Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)	Sandra Lloyd
Alethea Hegney	Shirley Hosell
Christine Horton	David Hosell
Sonia Vaughan	

Apologies were received from: Joe McNamara, Darryl Magher , Steve Melia
Lorraine Binsley David Fisher, John Satchwell and Sarah Lawford

Minutes of the previous meeting

Were accepted as a true record

Matters Arising

No Matters Arising

Reports

Chair - (BG) mentioned to the Friends again about putting all dogs on a lead in the Park. The Group felt that this was unrealistic. Councillor Hosell suggested that signs be put around the pool area stating that dogs must be put on a lead. SV said she will put signs in the notice boards.

Vice Chair - Wizfit for kids in the Park on 21st July was a success and the Friends opened the Community Room for refreshments. 'Go Play' was also well on 31st July and is returning on 16th August and the 30th August between 11am and 4 pm. The Fun Fair that normally comes into the park is coming again on 16th to 19th August.

(DF) reported to the Group that he had obtained a group insurance as the Council informed us that they were not covering us any longer.

(DF) also confirmed that four more Bat Detectors have been purchased and business Cards ordered.

Treasurer – nothing to report

Secretary – John Satchwell has put together a draft "Red House Park-Action Plan" dated August 2018. The Friends discussed the plan and SV will contact John with the group's comments. See **RED HOUSE PARK -ACTION PLAN** below. The comments of the group are shown in red.

Green Flag. The Group are disappointed that the park failed to get green flag status and have asked to see a copy of the report.

Events to Come

Bat Walk – 10th September and 17th September 2018

Santa in the Park- 9th December 2018

Any Other Business

Sonia and David attended an Initial Funding Meeting on 20th July with Sandwell Officers. Councillors Shirley and David Hosell also attended.

It should be easier to get funding in future as only one set of forms will be required and only one person will deal with each application. The potential for Active Citizen funding was also discussed.

The Sandwell Officers are:

Santokh Singh -Neighbourhood Engagement Manager

Sarah Lawford -Neighbourhood Engagement Officer

We have sent details of our Committee members and a copy of our Constitution to Sarah Lawford as requested.

Drop Bollard at Hill Lane Car Park. The padlock has been taken and the metal loop has been cut off so it can't be raised. This has been reported to John Satchwell as it allows the public to park within the park boundaries. SV will report it again

Park Gates. The Rangers are being used elsewhere in the Borough, so they cannot lock the gates at night. Offers have come from the public who live near the lockable gates saying that if they have the keys they will lock the gates at night (as long as they are available to do so).

Zip Wire surface matting is lifting. Potential hazard. SV will report it.

Community Pavilion. Toilets again are an issue to hiring out the room.

The Group reported that they have no keys to the referee's toilet. This facility could be used at various events.

The Friends briefly discussed the provision of a shelter (CH) said she was very concerned that it would encourage more drug users to gather in the park at night and it would become an 'eyesore' covered in graffiti.

FRHP flower bed. Sonia received approval from the Group to buy shrubs to plant in the autumn.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2018 IN THE PAVILION

Red House Park

Action Plan for Improvements -

Draft: AUGUST 2018

Action 1: New Footway from Pavilion to Main Avenue

JRS: Consultation letter to be sent to neighbouring properties by 3/8 **We trust they have been sent out.**

AT: Subject to no issues via consultation, appoint contractor and arrange start date (hopefully Sep 18)

Note, construction of footway to also include new fenced area adjacent to the Pavilion to house additional Grounds Maintenance Equipment

Date: Sep 18 **ASAP We look forward to work commencing in the next couple of weeks.**

Action 2: Woodland Clearance

PC: Further woodland clearance work to be undertaken during Autumn and Winter months. Work commencing late October / early November. Significant amount of work in this area which will be done over time.

Date: Oct / Nov 18 but ongoing **As you say there is much work to be done and we look forward to work continuing in this area as soon as bird nesting season is over. September?**

Action 3: Noticeboards

JRS: Perspex to Noticeboards need replacing. Have asked the Friends whether they would like to trial having no Perspex in the noticeboards? **The Friends want Perspex in the notice boards ASAP. We have waited long enough for replacements. They do not give a good first impression to park visitors as they are!**

JRS: A more permanent map of the Park maybe advantageous. Have asked the Friends whether they would like me to pursue this? **We want maps of the park to go in the notice boards so that we can highlight certain features of the park and seasonally change them when we need. Thank you for the additional offer of a more permanent map of the park which we accept and look forward to it being installed ASAP.**

If successful, I will arrange for the installation of this sign.

Date: October 18 **ASAP please. The notice boards as they are detract from the park.**

Action 4: Damp in Store Room

JRS: Awaiting feedback to Property Maintenance. Chased several times, will now escalate.

Date: Sep 18. **Please chase this up urgently. Both storerooms are damp and the fabric of the building is suffering as a result.**

Action 5: Bin Replacement on the way to Woodland

JRS: Good capacity of bins within the Park. Asked the Friends whether this bin is required.

Date: Aug 18 **Yes this bin is needed. The one you removed because it was dangerous was to have been replaced months ago.**

Action 6: New Bedding Design

DJ: New design to Bedding to commence imminently.

Date: Late August / Early Sep 18 **ASAP This is letting the park down. The old watering point that was near the Red House needs locating so that any new plantings are not lost due to lack of water at crucial times.**

Action 7: Leakage and drainage issues between the Pools

JRS: Sandwell Drainage engineer is due to visit the site and will be making recommendations as to any other further remedial works to be undertaken.

Date: August 2018 **Needs to be done ASAP. The water/mud washed across the pathways is a hazard to walkers and several people have slipped on the mud and ice.**

Action 8: Green Flag

JRS/ Parks/ Grounds Maintenance: Specific Action Plan to be produced for Green Flag with a view to securing the award in 2019.

Date: Action Plan to commence in October 2018. **Green Flag update. The Friends want to know **now** why we didn't achieve Green Flag. Can you please give us the reasons so that we know what improvements have to be made to achieve it next year. If the friends need to do anything, we want to do it now so that our park visitors benefit from it now.**