

Red House Park Friends Group  
16<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
General Meeting

Bill Gunn Chair opened the Meeting at 6.45 p.m

**1. Present**

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| Bill Gunn        | Ray Wheatley SMBC    |
| Christine Horton | Jean Jones           |
| Jackie Ward      | Julie and Steve Neil |
| Graham Carlin    | Sonia Vaughan        |
| Keith Wild       | Andy Tromans SMBC    |
| David Brown SMBC |                      |

**2. Apologies.**

No apologies were received.

**3. Chairmans' Report**

The Minutes were approved and there were no matters arising.

Bill reported that we have received the cheque for £600.00 from the SCVO so he is going to put the order in for fifteen bat detectors and two spotlights.

**4. Treasurers Report**

The books have been audited and signed. Copies have been distributed.

Keith said that the auditor had suggested that we keep separate accounts for each event and keep the figures in more detail. The Group would like to thank Bob for auditing the books for us and have asked Keith to give him a bottle of wine to show our appreciation.

**5. Secretary's Report**

CH said that she had nothing to report

**6. Council Report**

David Brown – Council Development Officer - came to the meeting to present his report on the park including the work that has been done and the proposals for the future. This part of the Council's report is in an appendix to these Minutes.

David asked the Group if he could replace their notice board at the Newton Road entrance which is continuously being vandalised and probably re-site it. Also it was mentioned that there are no signs informing motorists etc. of the whereabouts of the Park. David said that he did have a note of this.

CH asked David about the 'Bat sign' that Mark Sanders had sent to the Council for approval but it had been cancelled pending the Council's decision generally on signage. CH asked David if he would re-consider as it is a very informative notice and very interesting for children and adults alike. David asked if Mark could re-send him the details.

Andy Tromans reported that there is a slight repair needs doing to the Monument and the plaque is currently being made. He said that the flooding at the entrance to the park is being attended to and he will report to us at the next meeting.

## **7. Park Environment and Facilities**

Andy Tromans – Pathfinder Project Officer came to our meeting to report on the ‘Pathfinder Scheme.’ Sandwell Council have obtained 2.7 million to provide play spaces for 5 to 13 year olds. Twenty eight sites have been identified, sixteen to be completed this year and twelve next year. Consultations have taken place with all groups to find out what is required. The area it would occupy is by the M.U.G.A but away from the sledging slopes. The idea is to provide areas which will enable children to play freely and safely with opportunities to partake in climbing, balancing and more natural elements of play, it will also be accessible to all, both disabled and able bodied children. The site in Red House Park will comprise of the following and is planned to be done before March 2010.

A Zip wire

Large Climbing Frame

Small Climbing Frame that spins round

Four Metre High Double Activity Spacenet

Cable Ride proposed to be 45 metres long which is the longest cable ride in the Borough.

## **8. Forthcoming Events**

Plans for Father Christmas in the Park are taking shape and we just hope the weather will be kind to us.

A provisional date for the Fun Day is 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009

A schedule of meetings for 2010 and an appendix will be sent with these minutes.

**The next meeting of the ‘Friends’ Events Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training Centre on 30<sup>th</sup> November at 19.15 p.m.**

**The next General Meeting of the ‘Friends’ Committee will be held at the Horticultural Training centre on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 6.45 p.m.**

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