



# Friends of Red House Park

## Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Venue: The Pavilion, Red House Park, Newton Road, Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

Chairs opening remarks:

Mr Bill Gunn welcomed the group and gave his thanks for the hard work put in by everyone over the past year. BG took the opportunity of explaining to everyone how important the 'Friends Group' is to the continuing upkeep of the Park. Without the Group and the involvement with the Council the Park would not be the pleasant and attractive place it is today.

BG then handed over to SP for the nomination and election of committee members for the forthcoming year.

- BG was nominated by DF for position of Chair, this was not contested and BG agreed to stand again.
- LI was nominated by CH for position of Secretary, this was not contested and LI agreed to stand again.
- CH was nominated by SL for position of Treasurer, this was not contested and CH agreed to stand again.
- David Fisher was nominated by CH as Vice Chairman, this was not contested and DF agreed to stand again.

SP then handed back to BG for the rest of the meeting.

### 1. Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Bill Gunn (BG)	Chair	Ed O'Neil (EO)	Committee
David Fisher (DF)	Vice Chair	Joe McNamara (JM)	
Lisa Ingram (LI)	Secretary	Alethia Hegney (AH)	
Christine Horton (CH)	Treasurer	Mark Sanders (MS)	Committee
Sunish Patel (SP)	SMBC	Jean Jones (JJ)	
Sandra Lloyd (SL)		Graham Jones (GJ)	

Apologies were received from; Lisa Ingram, Steve Melia, Sonia Vaughan

### 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting

Accepted as a true record.

### 3. No Matters Arising

### 4. Reports

Chair.

BG queried the work going on in the second pool by Severn Trent. It would appear that it has been polluted. EO reported that Severn Trent had been removing the sewage and had removed the rubbish in the pool also. BG stated that he was very concerned about the wild life. SP said he would look into it, he was not aware of any pollution or the nature of the work being carried out by Severn Trent.

Secretary.

LI emailed several points that needed discussion and CH raised them at the meeting.

The public have emailed the Friends thanking them for the bench and stated that more benches would be appreciated.

LI has received a request for the name of a contact in Sandwell Council who would be able to discuss the future of the House. DF said he would deal with this, SP said they should contact Matthew Lynch

SP replied to an email to SL from a neighbour about the possibility of putting a bench in the Park in memory of her husband. SP said that the Council would give their consent to this, the bench being the same design as the one donated by Cameron Homes

The Cosmetic Clinic in Great Barr called Aesthetica has very kindly offered a voucher as a tombola prize at Santa in the Park. The Group agreed that this would be much appreciated.

LI wanted to know if the date of 'Paws' was moved to July could we use the pitches. SP explained that this was the maintenance period for the upkeep of the pitches so it wouldn't be possible to use the pitches. However the date of 26<sup>th</sup> July would be a good date to hold 'Paws' if acceptable to K9.

Treasurer

CH said that a full set of figures had been sent to the committee members and an abbreviated set distributed at the meeting. With the agreement of SP Alethia is going to check the vouchers and verify the bank balance with the bank statements. CH made the comment that the interest we are receiving is so small the Group should consider using some of the funds to benefit the park. Several suggestions were made, amongst them railings around the Mulberry Tree and a plaque giving details of the Tree. Also a Recycling Bin next to the Community Room.

Arrangements are being made to include LI, SL and S.V on the bank mandate as signatories on the 'Friends' account.

## Council Report

SP said that there would be no football on 7<sup>th</sup> December .  
SP wanted to confirm the position of the keys.

- 1 Set Graham Jones (only community rooms)
- 1 Set Mark Sanders (only community rooms)
- 1 Set Sonia Vaughan – Full Set including key to Car Park

SP agreed to get one key for the main car park gate so we will have two full sets of keys.

SP asked MS to inform him of any bookings that come in for the Community Room and to make sure that when the room is booked the 'evacuation procedures' were explained in detail to the people who hire the room. SP also asked that the people who hired the room were told that if they sold food they had prepared they would need to have a Food Handling Certificate

MS agreed that he would keep details of the income and expenditure incurred when he let the room and give CH the information at the General Meetings.

### **5. Sports and Play Facilities**

SL asked SP about the gates being locked on the tennis courts. Due to there being a gap under the nets the balls go out of the courts and it is a long way round to retrieve them while the gates are locked. SP said he would make sure they were unlocked to make it easier to retrieve the balls.

### **6. Events**

A brief discussion took place on 'Paws' and it was noted that there was a shortage of stewards on the day. This made it very difficult to control the cars when everyone made their exit.

BG told the Group that the 'Bat Walk' was very successful and about forty people turned up which is probably our capacity for such an event. There were not many bats because of the weed covering the pool.

### **7. Any Other Business**

DF is still waiting for quotes for the Noticeboard on the Railings and is considering alternative suggestions for design of the Board

**Date of Next Meeting – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 19.00 hrs**