



Friends of Red House Park Minutes taken at the General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 24th January 2023

Venue: The Pavilion, Red House Park, Pages Lane, Great Barr, starting at 7.00pm

Attendance

David Fisher Joe MacNamara Alethea Hegney Sandra Lloyd Chris Canning
June Canning Sonia Vaughan Darryl Magher Marianne Kull Carole Lowe
Jim Lowe

Apologies for Absence were received from Bill Gunn Steve Melia

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes were not taken on 9th November 2022 because only three people attended.

Matters Arising: N/A

Reports

Chair-(DF)

DF thanked everyone involved for making Santa in the Park such a success. It was enjoyed by those who helped and happy memories were made for the children (and adults) who saw Santa in his grotto. A total of £817 was banked and will be used for park improvements including a tree to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Vice Chair-(JM) No report.

Secretaries-(SL) and (SV)

SV. **Gardener's Compound.** The gate to the gardener's compound is off the hinges leaving the compound open and the rear of the pavilion insecure. Several reports have been made to the council and an email dated 28/11/22 says it has been logged. Still not fixed. SV will chase it up.

SV. **Pages Lane Car Park Light.** The car park light is still not working. Email on 13th December said the job had been passed to street lighting at Highways Dept. SV will chase it up.

SL and SV noticed that the **heating** was on in the changing rooms and toilet area even though no one was using the building. It will be turned off when the meeting ends and SV will let the council know.

SV. **Graffiti on Park Signage.** Safety signage will be cleaned of graffiti and algae and will be routinely checked to ensure that they are clear of graffiti and algae in the future. Thanks to Cllr Trumpeter for raising the issue with SMBC.

Treasurer-(AH) No report

Events

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III. We are hoping to celebrate the Coronation on Sunday 7th May 2023. Details to be confirmed.

BAT WALK. 13th September 2023. Meet 6.30pm at the pavilion. Details to be confirmed

SANTA IN THE PARK. We are hoping to be able to welcome Santa back for Christmas 2023. Date and details to be confirmed.

Environment

- Poor bin collecting and litter picking in the park by Serco remains a problem. FRHP look forward to receiving new bins from the SMBC's 'new bins programme' to replace those in the park that are no longer fit for the purpose and hope that they are emptied fully and regularly by Serco
- The hazardous steps down by the pools have now been replaced.
- Due to recent fly tipping and anti-social behaviour in our park, locking of car park gates was again discussed. We regularly ask SMBC to lock these gates but we are told that not locking park gates is a boroughwide decision by the council.
- Someone has removed SMBC Dog Control Order Notices from the tennis court fencing and dog owners are exercising their dogs off lead on the courts. This has been reported to the council. If you see dogs on the tennis courts let the council know days and times.
- Unauthorised cars driving into the park through Hill Lane gates. The bar used to lock one of the gates has been removed enabling both gates to be open wide enough for vehicles to enter. This has been reported to SMBC.
- Tree planting and removal. FRHP want two trees planted by SMBC for every one removed. We understand that semi mature trees are being planted by the council and not just saplings.

Any Other Business

- A plaque will be put on the Cherry tree donated last year by FRHP in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee.
- The FRHP would like to use the mulberry compound as a small armed forces remembrance garden.
- David Fisher told the meeting that funding is available to community groups to apply for to pay for park items.
- Funding is available from the Woodland Trust to help pay for hedging more than 100 metres in length.
- David Fisher told the meeting that park pool danger signs will be installed following a risk assessment into park pool safety.
- Darryl Magher asked if any conservation surveys of plants, trees, birds, animals etc have been carried out in the park.

- Approximately £17,000 funding is still earmarked by SMBC for use in Red House Park.
- Darryl Magher suggested that FRHP promote the park and the aims of the Friends group. Maybe an environmentally friendly FRHP shopping bag containing leaflets, badges, and related items to be given out at events.
- Darryl Magher asked if the Swing Basket has been installed in the children's play area yet.
- A Clean Air Project / Public Health event in the park was suggested.
- We urgently need bric-a-brac, toiletries, unwanted gifts, children's books, toys and games for our next fundraising events. All in good condition and no clothing please. Please email Sonia royvaughanathome@aol.com and she will arrange collection.

Meeting ended at 8.30pm

**NEXT MEETING will be held on Monday 20th February in the pavilion. 7pm start.
This meeting will be followed by a Coronation event meeting.**