

Friends of Selly Oak Park
Executive Committee Meeting
2pm Sun 26th September

Attendance:

Andrew Schofield (chair), Dave Barker, Michael Chu, Geoff Bartlet (part of meeting), Ann-Marie McCarthy (part of meeting), Tracey Hewitt (BCC), Nicola Little (Quadron), Jan Tomlinson (BCC Ranger Service), Ken Pugh (invited), Cllr Alasdair Dow (part of meeting), Cllr Robert Wright.

Apologies: Simon Cooper

1. Report from Selly Oak Festival

AS presented accounts from the Selly Oak Festival and **DB** corrected an error in these accounts. The revised accounts were accepted. **AS** commented that those groups who had had an attractive display and a clear sign saying who they were had done very well. Tiverton School took £150 and Ariel Scouts around £120. **NL** noted that the Quadron stall had taken £70 which was donated to a local hospice. All agreed that it was good to have so many groups involved and to have had so many visitors on the day. All agreed that a similar event should be run next year. **Action: Committee.**

2. Nature Trail

TH gave an update on the nature Trail. Two sculptures were now in place a welcome post and a bench. The latter had been designed in conjunction with children from St Mary's School. Three plaques celebrating the history of the park are in hand with wordings provided by **KP**. **TH** showed example signs to be positioned so as to highlight points of interest. She also reported having met with Brim Bats so as to identify suitable locations for information about bats. A second welcome post will go at the Scout Hut entrance with a canal theme (part funded by the Lapal Canal Trust). The planned willow tunnel will be planted in January. Some funs should be available for seating in the park. The Community Chest money is now almost spent so **TH** will soon be drawing on Grassroots money held by the Friends. **AS** suggested some kind of event to mark the completion of the trail / its opening. **Action TH, AJS + committee**

3. Bench in play area

AS reported that the bench in the play area has still not been fitted. Birse had agreed to do it for free but have simply not had time to do it. **AS** will contact Birse again shortly but fears that time pressures will only increase over the winter. **Jan Tomlinson** noted that the Parks service use an outside contractor for that kind of job and it was agreed to pursue this option via **Simon Cooper** if Birse are unable to fit the bench very soon.

4. Football posts

AS reported that the park was now next on the list to be provided with football posts. It is hoped that these will be of a superior design capable of being removed in winter months.

5. Spending priorities for Festival Surplus

After a lengthy discussion about benches the following motion was passed. "That, unless a volunteer could be found to construct suitable benches, that the majority of the festival surplus be spend on metal benches of an economical design that can be fitted by Quadron. These benches will be fitted along the main paths from Corisande Rd to Gibbins Rd (Scout Hut end) and Harborne Lane. The committee will also petition BCC for additional benches in the park".

Action AS.

6. Heydays of Selly Oak Park. (KP withdrew for this item).

Following up on a previous meeting, **AS** proposed that the Friends buy around 10 copies of the above book for resale at park events. **DB** proposed that a similar number of copies be purchased but that they be given to local School. The later proposal was accepted and 8 copies ordered. An inscription will be added to the books and a suitable cover letter prepared. **Action DB, AS**

7. Any other business

NL asked if it would be acceptable to send photographs from the Festival that include members of the committee to the editor of the Lapal Trust Magazine. All agreed that this was fine.

AD asked if we had received funds from the Elford trust. **AS** noted that we had not. **AD** agreed to follow up.

Post meeting note: The Elford Trust have donated £1,536.79 to the park for football posts this money seems to be residing with BCC.