

The Friends of Selly Oak Park

Minute of the Annual General Meeting 16th September 2012 in the Scout Hut, Gibbins Road.

All present during pre-AGM meeting, plus Karen McCarthy, Dave Radcliffe, Jean Malladin, Martin the Juggler.

Apologies: Simon Cooper, Ken Pugh.

Minutes from last year's meeting agreed.

Matters Arising

Item 8. Decided not to go ahead with. To continue with tidying up and weaving in new growth to willow sculpture.

Annual Report

Delivered by Andrew Schofield (Chairman).

Friends of Selly Oak Park Annual General Meeting 2012 Chairman's Report

It has been another busy year for the Friends of Selly Oak Park with many improvements and enhancements.

New gravel paths (funded by BCC) have allowed completion of a walking circuit of the park if you use the rough track by the canal. We are disappointed that parts of the new paths were washed away by heavy rain before they were able to properly bed in.

BCC also provided a new notice board for the Gibbins Rd Entrance with our name embossed in gold lettering on the front. We also have a new interpretation board for the stump of the Old Oak Tree. This display was designed by myself and Ken Pugh.

BCC also provided a new wooden gate by the lodge, a new bench and some bins plus much appreciated trip level fencing along Gibbins Rd.

Following up on previous AGM requests BCC also provided signs promoting safe cycling at various points in the park.

The remaining Play Builder budget was used to raise one end of the Zip Wire to add more zip although the supplier contributed to this also.

Friends funds were used for a carved bench in memory of founder member Geoff Bartlett. The bench, designed and carved by Grahame Young, features a mechanical theme recalling Geoff's engineering background and hobby. It is inscribed "In memory of Geoff Bartlett founder member of the Friends of Selly Oak Park".

We were successful in obtaining £1500 from the ward to help fund the Selly Oak Festival which we held at the end of June. It was, once again, the best festival ever with many more stalls and activities than previous years. Attendance was beyond expectation (we estimate at least 2000 people). A real marker of success is that when the Fun Fair opened we did not notice a change in numbers at the festival. It was however hard work for the Friends and in future we will not be able to run the festival and have our own stall. Overall we raised about £250 from stall fees and stall takings with a fair rent surplus of about £800 held by BCC on our behalf. The weather on the day was good considering that either side it was very wet. This caused problems with getting cars on and off the park and also stranded the fair in the park for much longer than they had wished. However, the Constituency Parks Manager was happy that the damage to the grass was minimal

and much less than other parks holding events this year.

We have also been awarded £10100 by the ward towards an exercise zone (to go adjacent to the play area). We have used this as a basis for a bid to the Veolia Trust for a further £20000. We will hear about this in November. If this is unsuccessful the ward money will still fund a viable if small zone.

We've been donated a table tennis table which now sits in the middle of the park. This is proving surprisingly popular with groups bringing their own bats and balls to play. We do now also have a stock of bats and balls to place by the table on an honesty basis and to use at events.

During this year we joined the Birmingham Heritage Forum a local network which will boost the public profile of the park. Our website continues to be popular with over 15000 visits since we re-started it.

Andrew Schofield
8/9/2012

Treasurer's Report

Delivered by Dave Barker (Treasurer).

In addition there needs to be a financial buffer near to the festival. It was acknowledged that Andrew has put up own personal funds to pay for various festival expenses until funds available in FoSoP account. Money has not been in the FoSoP account in time for the festival.

Election of Officers

All officers re-elected: Andrew - Chair, Ann-Marie - Vice-Chair, Ken - Secretary, Dave – Treasurer, Bob, Steve and Malcolm to remain on committee.

Any Other Business

Karen McCarthy suggested that there is a scheme within Birmingham City Council that trains young people in community involvement and this may be of benefit for the festival, as the young people in this scheme may be able to help with stewarding etc etc.

Also discussed the combination of the toy bubble machines which were being sold in proximity to the falconry.

Optimising the PA system for the falconry.

To have a location for missing children with a query bear sign.

No problems observed with dog owners bringing their dogs on leads to the festival.

It was discussed that it may be necessary to fix a date for the festival. It was suggested the last Saturday in June.