

Friends of Selly Oak Park

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 22nd Sept 2024 at Scout Hut, Gibbins Road.

Present: Andrew Schofield (Chair), Sue Whitmarsh, Marian Evans, Simon Stafford, Ann-Marie McCarthy, Bob Curry, Helen Murie,

1. **Apologies:** Beth Delwiche, Louise Francis Taylor.

2. Previous minutes

Minutes accepted

3. Matters Arising

Update: In light of recent experiences with donated bench being installed the policy for donations/trees/plaques/benches etc needs tweaking.

4. Agenda Items

4.1 Repair of main gate

The main outer wooden gate to the park has been damaged when the travellers arrived in the park recently. The council will replace it, possibly with a metal one similar to the existing inner gate. It was suggested bollards or a height restricter should be included but it needs to be removable to allow council vehicles and festival stall holders access. However these can still be bypassed or broken if the intention is there. Andrew to ask Sue (council) best option, impact, cost vs cost of clean up, etc

4.2 Memorial bench and trees

We have had 2 new benches donated. If more are donated we would have to ensure the cost of installation was included in the donation. Contractors for installing must be approved by the council and install to BCC standards.

One of the recently donated benches has caused some issues. the donor wanted hand prints and a locket and names in the cement base but while the cement was drying other graffiti was added. Louise tried to cover this up but it was quite a mess. Sue (council) is asking contractor to resurface the cement but danger of same thing happening again unless it is sat with while it dries.

4 trees are still pending until the right time of year for planting.

5. Any other business

Feedback from Birmingham Open Spaces Conference.

The conference was led by Richard Link, the new Head of Parks, seconded for 2 years from the National Trust. He is an ex Architect and lives in Manchester. He wants to change the approach to funding of parks.

Do we need help with social media eg Training?

A university Geography lecturer has a 3 rd year student who could do some research for us relating to ecology or social science on how the park is used. If we are interested there is a proposal form that needs to be in by 11th November for a January start.

Chris, the man who led a 'bird walk' in the park would like to do more work with FOSOP

Heritage Birmingham week organiser has suggested the Selly Oak park is included next year.

BOSF coffee mornings are held monthly with a walk around a different park each time followed by tea/coffee and cake. Selly Oak park will be included on 13th November.

Helen has suggested a wreath making workshop before Christmas house some of the canes from the willow.

Other suggestions of activities using the scout hut if it is available to be explored.

6. *Dates of Future Meetings and Events:*

Committee meetings: 7.00pm on TEAMS

Tuesday 22nd Oct
Tuesday 19th Nov
Tuesday 21st Jan
Tuesday 18th March
Tuesday 29th April
Tuesday 20th May

Sunday 13th October Funghi walk , Lodge Hill Cemetery 10.30

Saturday 10th December Carols in the park

Wreath Making workshop TBC

Wednesday 13th November BOSF Coffee morning time to be confirmed

Groups

Litter picking: 2nd Saturday every month 10.00am to 11.00 am

Gardening: 1st Sunday and 3rd Friday of every month 10.00am to 11.00 am