

Friends of Selly Oak Park
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 05/12/22 via Zoom

Chair. Andrew.

Present. Andrew Schofield (Chair) Annette Lawson, Simon Stafford, Bob Curry, Anne-Marie McCarthy, Marian Evens

1. Apologies. Sue Whitmarsh, Helen Murie, Jan Tomlinson, Sue Amey
2. Minutes of last meeting. Correction Watermill School not Watermeadow.

3. Matters arising.

3.1 Wildflower seeds /planting. Requires funding also ground would need scarifying pre sowing. Too much work for volunteers.

3.2 Mobile cafe. Andrew has investigated BCC requirements. Currently, an event form is required for each occasion 12 weeks prior to event though this may change in the near future. This was considered not to be an efficient use of resources [time]. Further this would have to be associated with an organised event with some other purpose – eg the Festival or Carols. BCC has the right to lease a regular pitch to mobile catering firms and is in the process of putting this out to tender.

A question arose whether the Scout Hut could be used as a venue for refreshments for volunteer activities. The Hut was used as so for the recent tree planting activities. Previously, there was a fee of £15 for use of the hut for committee meeting but was abolished in lieu of a free stall at the summer Festival. **AJS to investigate.**

3.3 Litter bins. No communication from BCC re re-siting the bin rediscovered or getting a new one.

4. Carols in the Park

Dec 10th Bob and Simon to help with setting up Lights and Gazebo.

Coffee van invited to be in attendance at 4.15. Band has been rehearsing. Tree to be lit till after Christmas.

5. Tree Planting

Two successful tree planting events. Helped by volunteers from National Trust [who also donated the trees], Corporate volunteers organised by NT, Watermill School. UoB students, Conservation Group and regular volunteers plus Park ranger – Jan Tomlinson.

Around 20 Trees planted along frontage of Gibbins Rd, by Scout Hut corner and also by Gibbins Wood. A few whips and small conifers were also planted. We look forward to seeing them in the Spring and future years.

6. Corisande Rd

Quote received by Sue Amey[BCC] for completing the fencing is £3294.

£2000 has been applied for from the Ward CIL funds and BCC will make up the rest. If no funding received from other sources, Sue Amey reported to investigate whether the houses facing the fence would agree to pay the cost or donate to it.

Beds have been tidied up by the gardening group but more work required in the New Year on the uppermost side to clear weeds and saplings.

Sculpture should be ready in March and perhaps an Opening event could be staged. More volunteers encouraged to join would be advantageous.

7. Group reports

7.1 Litterpick continues monthly on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

7.2 Gardening group now finished till Spring.

7.3 Conservation continuing as usual. Some shrubs transplanted.

8. Future Meetings.

Currently meetings are held via Zoom which has worked well. However this costs a monthly subscription £14 that Andrew has paid for. This was fine while Andrew was using the account for multiple groups but now FoSOP is the only group that requires him to have a premium Zoom account. Andrew suggested that we use Microsoft Teams instead and could be obtained on your mobile or PC on an App. He will set up a trial date/time so that we all can log on and see if it works successfully.

9. AOB. No Other matters.

Date of next meeting 23rd January 2023 – 6pm MS Teams.