

Friends of Selly Oak Park
Minutes of the Committee meeting 24th January 2022 6pm by Zoom

Present: Andrew Schofield (Chair), Helen Murie, Marian Evans, Bob Currie, Annette Lawson, Sue Whitmarsh

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**
approved

3. **Matters arising:**

4. **Corisande Road entrance project:**

- a) Recent clearing of undergrowth revealed a change in ground level. This will result in increased cost. The anticipated preferred contractor has not responded to tender.
- b) Fencing prices have gone up. All wooden materials are more expensive. May have to wait as it takes us over budget.
- c) Team have taken out all shrubs and most of stumps and some small trees. James and Andrew agreed what trees to leave.
- d) Ideally fencing should be done before planting but this may not be possible. Trees need to be planted by end of March.
- e) Sue is doing a letter for residents re fence. Council will pay for removal as long as they don't object. Some of their shrubs are also pushing the fence over. The property may be rented out so need to contact the owner. if no response we will continue anyway.
- f) Barchams sell online. 45 litre pots that don't need a mechanical digger. approximately 3 meters and suitable girth. James to order direct to avoid VAT . 2 hawthorns, 2 laburnums are already allocated to us by Birmingham Trees for Life. We need to order 4 tibetan cherries, 4 x himalayan silver birch 4 x snow queen. (cheaper to buy 10 than 8.) The extra two could be put somewhere else. Maybe offer one to the people who wanted a memorial for Cath Smith.
- g) Planting - need to do ourselves or ask Birmingham Trees for Life wardens to help dig holes etc.
- h) Sue has green manure to dig in . We need a working party to prepare ground and another to plant
- i) Could we get help from University, community networks, green gyms etc.?
- j) Other planting - ground cover etc. Helen to make recommendations eg, roses, periwinkle, comfrey, bulbs, snowdrops, tulips, cyclamen.

Action: Sue to write to residents

Andrew to suggest dates for working parties.

5. **Notice Boards:**

-with perspex fronts, one for scout hut entrance one for Harborne road entrance. Design needed

6. **Wood Carvings:**

- Wood carving man will to do carving for us. Council willing to release funds within the week so need to order stuff now.

7. Willow Sculpture:

- Andrew, Annette, Paul, Jam and Wendy. attended to the sculpture and managed to do it all in a day. Some shoots were replanted, some put in the millennium wood.

8. Gardening group report:

- no report. - need ground to warm up. Need to think about what to sow in spring. could we get community involvement to provide bulbs, sunflowers, seeds. Marian tried to get freebies from local shops but no luck.

8. Conservation group report:

- Coppicing in Millenium wood creating more light to help ground level plants. Walkways have been created. It would be good to grow the group. meets 1:30 thursdays. There is a form to sign for insurance purposes ?

9. Litter picking Group:

Evie wants to do weekly picks for Duke of Edinburgh Award under Simon's supervision. Sue will sign her book.

Trying to get additional pickers and hoops from Open Spaces. No luck so far.

Next date 12th feb. Plan to have picks second saturday of every month. We can keep pickers and bags etc in the green shed. We need a cupboard and digital locks on the shed door

10. Festival:

a) Donkeys only available on 25th june not 18th June. 25th Clashes with Bournville festival.

action: Andrew to confirm with Donkey man, and fill in forms for the council

b) we want a strong sports theme, could we get involvement from university and schools for team sports? Archery? Tai chi taster or demo?

11. Any Other Business:

a) Harborne Lane entrance fence is falling down which doesn't look good. Could ask the student accommodation to do something about it?

c) Play area is looking sparce, as equipment breaks it doesn't get replaced. There is no budget for replacement kit. Could we get some money from the CIL money re Unite building?

12. Date of next meeting;

28th March 2022

Other dates: