

Friends of Selly Oak Park
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 7.00pm on 31st October 2023 via Teams

Present: Andrew Schofield (Chair), Bob Curry, Sue Whitmarsh, Helen Murie, Beth Delwiche, Marian Evans

1. **Apologies:** Annette Lawson, Simon Stafford

2. **Previous minutes:** Some typos. Correction of spelling of Bob's and Ann-Marie's names. Otherwise accepted

3. **Matters arising:**

Letter regarding travellers has not yet been written.

4. Reports from groups

4.1 Conservation Group:

The group is not meeting routinely. A small group met with Jan and removed 2 hawthornes and attended to damaged cherry trees. Some clearance around bases of new trees carried out. They all need some mulch.

4.2. Litter picking Group:

Last litter picks accompanied by two volunteers from KFC.

McDonalds have ordered two bins and pickers and gloves. One bin will go by the Corisande road entrance. Discussion around where to put the other bin resulted in agreement to replace a cylinder bin that is going rotten. Sue Amey to be asked if there is better solution. Bins have been ordered to be delivered to the store so we will need to collect from there.

The best green handled pickers are approx £60.

More tabards are needed but are bespoke.

The McDonalds store is planning a corporate volunteer litter pick event for 7th November at 9.30, meeting at store at 9.00 for drinks. We need to provide some Friends to join in. It was suggested we ask them to concentrate on areas where flytipping left over from travellers is still an issue.

KFC will be doing litter picks 4th saturday of each month for three months starting 25th November. Some Friends should join then and concentrate on the paths. Andrew to suggest they leave it till May as very little litter over the winter

4.3. Gardening Group:

Group continues to meet every two weeks. Weeds cleared from Corisande Road. More to do, weather permitting. Important not to walk on wet soil to avoid compaction. Suggestion that we rake up leaves and use them to mulch around trees. Work on the community bed also continues.

5. Costa

Costa want to give us a bench but want us to buy it and they will reimburse. This will not work.

6. Carols in the park

Approval has not been confirmed yet and not enough instrumentalist found. Need volunteers for setting up and closing down, stewarding, giving out song sheets. Need to publicise but agreed not to deliver flyers, other than to shops for display in windows and noticeboards etc. Rely on social media to advertise.

7. Festival

The university has been approached for sponsorship. Usual contact has moved on and outreach department have not responded to Andrew's clarification of what we need. The Outreach department

provide museum tent and robots etc. but without the same level of funding as previously the festival is at risk. Helen suggested asking Birmingham Open Spaces for assistance.

8. Any other business:

Birmingham Open Spaces conference was attended by Helen. The councillor sung the praises of Friends groups and values the data provided by the groups to justify the funding for next year. Progress is being made regarding fly-tipping and rubbishing. Social prescribing is very haphazard as every surgery is different. Helen will circulate information regarding a training session on pruning fruit trees.

John Davidson has expressed an interest in running guided walks eg to Shenley, or walk around the park to show the historical features.

Saranjit Birdi is an artist who has money from the Arts council to run a workshop in Selly Oak park (scout hut) on 6th November between 10.15 and 12.30. The art work produced will contribute to a light display at Winterbourne on 1st Dec. By invitation only.

Helen now has an Instagram account and has an offer of help from a neighbour of the Corisande Road entrance to help with using Instagram to support the park. Beth has also offered to help Helen with Instagram.

5 year plan now needs to be reviewed and updated.

Helen's son is doing the Duke of Ed. award which has a volunteering component. This has provided an opportunity to circulate to the kids (13year olds) that opportunities exist for volunteering in the park. (Simon's daughter volunteered). This may also provide links with the school regarding the festival and football tournaments etc.

Graffiti wipes needed to clean up the nature trail signs.

9. Dates of Future Meetings and Events:

Mc Donalds Volunteer day 7th November

Christmas Carols

Saturday 9th December 2023

Strike lights 6th Jan 2.00pm

Willow maintenance

27th Jan and 3rd Feb (to be confirmed)

Committee meetings: 7.00pm on TEAMS

Tuesday 21st November 2023

Tuesday 6th February 2024

Tuesday 19th March 2024

Tuesday 23th April 2024

Tuesday 21st May 2024

Festival

Monday Pre-Meet 10 June 2024 7.00pm

Saturday Festival 15th June 2024

Litter picking 2nd saturday every month 10.00am to 11.00 am

