

Friends of Selly Oak Park
Minutes of the Committee meeting 29th November 2021 6pm by Zoom

Present: Andrew Schofield (Chair), Helen Murie, Marian Evans, Bob Currie, Annette Lawson, Ann-Marie Mc Carthy, Sue Whitmarsh

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**
approved

3. **Matters arising:**

4. **Gardening Group:**

Some geraniums have been lifted for overwintering.

5. **Corisande Road entrance project:**

- a) Recent clearing of undergrowth revealed a change in ground level. Addressing this may mean additional cost and may need to be put out to tender.
- b) Shrubs now need to be taken out

Action: Proposed date 9th Dec 1:00 Bob to put on Facebook to ask for volunteers to help.
Local residents to be spoken to, to inform about work being done. AS, HM, BC 5th dec 11:00

- c) New fence height agreed to be 6ft to match fence that will remain. Concern about potential graffiti.
- d) Birmingham Trees for life offered 10 new trees but not ready for them yet.

Action: Helen will be meeting Tree Officer to ask about staking and cages for new trees to protect against vandalism and other damage and where to put trees offered by Birmingham Trees for Life and who is digging the holes for them

- e) In order to keep to Gold, silver, bronze colour scheme proposed trees are:
2 hawthorn (existing) 1 sycamore (existing), 4 laburnum (new), 2 silver birch (new), 2 cherry (new), 2 hawthorn (new)
- f) Question over how much maintenance of the site do we intend to do ourselves. We have not maintained this site previously
- g) New sign with or without finials.
- h) Corner house has a large tree that is part of the fence line and hangs over the park potentially unsafely. Unsure whether it is the responsibility of the park or house owner. Survey of all of the parks trees is due next year.

6. **Gibbins Road woodland extension project:**

Bob and Paul have been planting whips of a variety of trees. some fruiting trees. Damage has been noted ie, whips pulled out of the ground and just left. Animal (eg badger) damage or vandalism.

7. **Carols in the park**

- a) 11th Dec carols to begin 5:00pm :
- b) Leaflets have been given out for distribution. Need to be distributed before 5th Dec

- c) Tree lights will be turned on 3:00 (off 8th Jan)
- d) Gazebo for band
- e) Hot drinks vendor has been invited to start serving from 4:30 and continue after carols
- f) 3-4 band members will be invited to warm up at Andrews
- g) No glo sticks
- h) Song sheets to be printed and given out
- i) Stewards need to do LFT on the day or day before and not attend if unwell
- j) Vicar to lead prayer and blessing

8. Increasing engagement:

This can be achieved by more activities and sub groups. Groups need to have leader whose role is to organise a WhatsApp group for participants, and use facebook to advertise activity.

Proposed groups.

- a) Gardening group led by Marian
- b) Conservation group led by Bob The university has a nature conservation group that could be invited to participate
- c) Landscaping group - sculptures etc
- d) Litterpicking Sue (volunteered to lead)

Action: Andrew to arrange key to shed and handover of some pickers and vests and list of usual participants. Sue to advertise next date to be day after carols and then approximately monthly. Inform council of dates.

- e) Events led by Andrew
- f) Fitness in the park

9. Tennis table move and informal route between scout hut and park:

Action: Andrew to ask Sue about funding

10. Willow maintenance;

Date 15th jan

11. AOB:

- a) memorial for Cath Smith. Benches cost about £750 -£1000, trees cost about £100
- b) Birmingham City Council require volunteers to fill in personal details form to be insured for activities undertaken, but we are insured under Birmingham Open Spaces Forum insurance.

Action: Bob to get BCC forms and find out where to send them

- c) Andrew keeps a list of volunteers and the facebook group membership list. GDPR statement needs to be updated. Should we have a photo consent form.
- d) Future Parks Accelerator Project- draft 25 year plan has been published for consultation
- e) Labour councillors will change at next election

12. Date of next meeting;

24th Jan 2022

Other dates:

Lepid Grove walkabout – 5th Dec 11am

Corisande Rd shrub removal – 9th Dec 1pm

Carols, 11th Dec, 3pm for lights and gazebo, 4pm for stewards, 4:30 hot drinks, 5pm start.
Lights down 8th Jan (Andrew only).
Willow, 15th Jan, 10am.