

Friends of Selly Oak Park
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 6.00pm on 22nd May 2023 on Zoom

Present: Andrew Schofield (Chair), Sue Whitmarsh, Helen Murie, Annette Lawson, Bob Curry, Anne-Marie McCarthy, Louise Francis-Taylor

1. **Apologies:** Marian

2. **Previous minutes:** Accepted

3. **Matters arising:**

Need to put minutes on line.

Bob was at the last meeting. AnneMarie's name misspelt.

4. **Corisande Road entrance project:**

Still a small number of plants to plant which hint arrived on time for the the planting event. A lot of volunteers turned up. Photos have been submitted to the Chelsea Flower Show display. At the reopening event £8.37 was collected.

5. **Festival:**

Burger van and ice cream van and funfair confirmed. Andrew posted on a face book group for festival traders. Several responses. University want 2 stalls. Donkey owners are not trading anymore and would only do the festival under someone else's licence and insurance. So no donkeys this year. Unfortunate as it was always a draw. Circus entertainers instead. 22 presenters want 28 pitches.

Only two football teams have confirmed but need 4 for a tournament. Helen and AnneMarie have emails schools but have had no reply. Will try by telephone next week. Bob to try Harbourne Primary School. Bob has collected the shield. Need to make a decision by Friday.

Dog show- same categories as last year. A local vet will judge. Rosettes have been ordered. Pets at Home have been asked to donate prizes in return there donation will be credited on the flyers. Counsellor who judged last year wants to be involved this year. Andrew to ask her if she would like to be the commentator.. Louise wants a table for registration and could share a stall. She will supply dog treats and water bowls and poo bags.

Entertainers - 50 strong choir, Story telling, Brass Quintet, Circus skills

Helen to ask her drumming teacher re possible demo or workshop. Windswept workshops are providing the story telling, perhaps they could provide a poet. Trampolining?

Signs to go up in Gibbins Road tomorrow. Flyer needs to be finalised by Friday

6. **Litter Picking Group:**

Next date is June 10th. Andrew offered to lead. There will need to be a pick in the morning of the festival and again after. As weather improves the park will get used more and hence more rubbish expected. The cage bins get attacked by animals when full scattering the rubbish. It would be helpful if council would empty bins more often in the summer. It would be useful to collect data on the parks usage eg, how far do people travel to get to the park, how many people use it and when? Need to talk to Bham Open Spaces about how to go about data collection. A geography student may be interested in a project?

The bins that have been long promised are now installed and in use. There is now no need to have bags tied to the gates of the scout hut car park.

7. **Nature Conservation Group:**

The group has been struggling due to Paul being away for a month and Bob has arthritis. Jan can no longer do thursdays. Two trees have been donated but need someone physically able to plant them. Andrew has a list of possible volunteers who've expressed an interest in conservation. Another day of the week may be possible but currently it is 2.00pm meeting at the Park Keepers Lodge . If volunteers are late then they should go directly to Millennium wood.

8. Gardening Group:

Helen gave the feedback as Marian not present. Last gardening session was last friday and was well attended. A lot was achieved. A redesign of the bed will be considered after the festival. The other two unadopted bags are also looking good. Some plants were rescued from council workers who were removing them from the Gibbins Road beds (more will be planted in June). These will be potted on to be sold at the festival. The council workers were very interested in what the group were doing. Good to build relationship with council. New volunteer Julie was very keen and likely to become a regular volunteer.

9. Any other business:

The Sainsbutys site developers have contacted council about their plans. Local consultation will be next. Proposal involved no more than 5 stories and multiple uses including students. Helen noted that the current building is planned to be demolished before the planning permission for new build is obtained. No provision to check for bats. Helen has made an objection.

Helen and Marian went to Bham Open Spaces meeting and found it useful networking opportunity. Helen has also attended NT Blossom celebration. The project is continuing Helen is meeting with NT contact. Feedback to give is that the comments form visitors has been positive. It was very helpful that the NT provided volunteers to help plant the trees. Only negative was that we didn't know which trees were which as not labelled well. The trees now need weeding and watering and re-mulching. Any help from the NT would be appreciated. The Friends do not have the facilities or resources to routinely water the trees during the summer. Helen suggest a possible future purchase of water container that fits in a wheelbarrow.

10) Dates of Future Meetings and Events:

Committee meetings: 7.00pm on zoom

Festival

Monday Pre-Meet 12 June 2023 7.00 pm on Zoom

Saturday Festival 17th June 2023