

Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting– **Meeting held – Monday 15th May 2006**

Present: Penny Millington, Tracy Bratt, Bill Gerrity, Margaret Wood, Sue Bradshaw and Cllr Barry Burkhill.

Apologies: Marjorie Walker, Steve Greenlees (Congratulations on the birth of daughter Charlotte) and Irina Wood.

Minutes from last meeting were accepted by all the group and passed.

Matters arising –

Planting Events –

Ruth Morgan has put Meriton Road Park down on her list for a planting event. She has contacted Penny to confirm this and will contact the group nearer the time – October/November to arrange the event.

We will need to decide on the details for our planting events and make a plan highlighting any areas of risk and the council will then look at the proposal and advise us how to proceed and take any liability for the event.

Cllr Burkhill said we should also contact the Mayor's office, via Sandra Hart, as they will come along and promote the event.

Play Day 2006

Tracy reported back to the group about the event.

It will take place on **Tuesday August 1st from 1pm until 4pm.**

A name for the event has not been decided yet.

The aim of the event is to promote inclusive play for children and young adults within their local communities.

There will be an "arena" area where displays and information stalls will be set up for people to wander around. There will be an area for the old fashioned sports day games will take place.

We are hoping to arrange for football skills and penalty type shootout area and art activities such as a giant tree display to be decorated by people stating on a leaf their idea for an ideal park, this will then go to Congleton Park and South Park, Macclesfield for their play day events. Kite making, mask making, wildlife activities, storytelling in the pond area and parachute games to enable people with disabilities to take part in different activities.

I am contacting the Scouts and Guides to see if they would like to be involved and give some demonstrations, also the Tennis Club will be asked if they could help us out and Penny is contacting Handforth Jazz Band to see if they could do a short session for us.

We are looking into hiring a national skateboarding demonstration team to attend the three parks and if it is a viable proposal they will bring some demonstration ramps to the park to put on a display.

It has been decided that water will be provided for the event but no other refreshment as this is difficult due to health and safety issues.

Volunteers will be from the Park Rangers Service, St John's Ambulance and the Youth Service volunteer scheme which run all the holiday playschemes and are therefore already security checked.

I offered to add information about the play day in with our questionnaire deliveries and to put up posters around the village promoting the event.

Questionnaire

Tracy apologised to the group that she had not been able to send off the questionnaire to MBC as yet but will be doing so very soon and will then be able to organise a date for printing and distribution.

At the next meeting we will look at a map of Handforth and decide areas for different people to deliver to.

Drainage

Tracy spoke to Ruth Morgan after the Play Day meeting and Ruth explained that she would be going to Meriton Road to examine the drainage issue as she had received other complaints about the problems. Ruth was seen there this afternoon (15th May) and also a gentleman looking down the drains outside the main entrance to the park later this afternoon! So hopefully things are moving along now. Ruth

did also say that because we are using the park for the Play Day event it will give a push to other maintenance issues we have.

Tracy discussed with Ruth the need for a short term solution to the play area covering to allow greater use of the facilities especially as The Royal School for The Deaf use the park and play areas a lot in the summer months. It will probably get new bark chippings for the short term and then when drainage is sorted we can go onto plan a major redevelopment of the area.

Barry has also been raising the issue of drainage with the council and suggested that they put a land drain in from the play area to the pond but also that a major investment would be needed for the drainage system of the whole park to be redeveloped.

Charity Status

We will discuss this with Tim at our next meeting.

Missing Benches –

We discussed the fact that we may be getting our bin problem solved but we also have missing benches!!!

1 by the tennis courts

1 by the play area

1 by the old bowling green.

Tracy will email Richard Doran about this and see if anything can be done about this as extra seating will be very useful for the Play Day event.

Pavilion-

Barry explained that his wife Sue is on the Community Policy Development Committee and that they have in the past been discussion the future of the pavilion and that it was highlighted as how buildings in parks are left to run down. Penny asked Barry if he and Sue could ask what the current thinking is about the pavilion and if the surveys have brought any new information. We feel it is essential to find out what the plans are so that money can be spent correctly either restoring the building and finding a specific use and the people to keep it running properly or to demolish it and use the space for other park facilities that will benefit the community.

A.O.B

Margaret Wood has spoken to Churches Together and they have all been interested to hear about our work with the park and would like to promote community events and have said that they would have volunteers to help us to deliver our questionnaires. This is greatly appreciated by the group as many hands will make light work!

Date of Next Meeting –

Monday 12th June 2006 at 7pm **in the park by the old bowling green if the weather is good** or at the Community House Knowle Park

<http://handforth.net/>