

Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting– Meeting held – Monday 17th July 2006

Present Derrick Myerscough, Tracy Bratt, Bill Gerrity, Steve Greenlees , Sue Bradshaw ,Margaret Wood, Barry Burk hill and Sue Bidwell.

Apologies: : Penny Millington, Marjorie Walker, and Tim Greenwood

Minutes from last meeting accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising From Last Meeting-

ACTIVE PARK ½ day event

Tracy had been to the latest organisation meeting on the 23rd June and all was going well for the event. Unfortunately for our park we were unable to get the scouts as had been hoped– maybe next year if we have an event we can call upon them again.

People available to help on the afternoon are Sue, Bill and Tracy, Steve may be able to help a little too. We are planning to have a couple of people on the information/Friends of the Park table near the entrance to ask people for ideas, views etc and give out spare questionnaires. Other people may be needed to watch over a race or activity area for a short while.

We also plan to go over on the Monday evening and do a quick sweep up of the tennis court and check around the site, possibly 7.30/8pm kind of time. Ruth Morgan has ordered extra picker uppers to be deployed before the event but unfortunately the play area will not be re-chipped by then.

Update – Tracy attended the next Active Park meeting on Wednesday 19th July and activities were confirmed for Meriton Road as follows-

Sports day fun races on the old bowling green area.

Street dance display

Tai Boxing display

Handforth tennis Club using the courts for demonstration sessions

Football activities, Basketball skills and Wilmslow lacrosse club.

Nature Table, Kite making, Tree display and storytelling by The Rangers

There may be further people and there may be several health inniative activities such as using pedometers or checking your pulse, sun awareness and healthy eating.

We are at present trying to get donations of small water bottles. We are very disappointed that Tesco said no (their budget had gone!!!)

Please let Tracy know if you are able to come along and help on the afternoon otherwise just come along for a while to see how things are going – it will be so good to see the park being used for an event aimed at all ages of our community.

Questionnaires – Thank you so much for doing all the hard work and delivering the questionnaires. We think we have quite a few responses in all the boxes and hopefully we may get a few more on Active Park day too. Richard Doran was asking how things were going with it so we shall keep him informed.

Drainage– We will email Richard and emphasize the need to update us on this and ask if they have put a specific amount of money into the budget for our drainage.

Ruth Morgan emailed this to me on 20th July -

I have gone round in circles trying to ascertain whether extra drainage would help the play area or not. It may seem like an obvious answer, however, as the ground is clay, it is very difficult for the water to find its way to the drains unless it is directly over the pipes. You can see evidence of this on the bowling green area when

its dry. You will see light stripes where the drains are and the water is able to escape. The problem is, unless we install an amazing new drainage system, a single drain (which is what has been suggested) is not going to do anything. As you know we do not have the money to install an all singing all dancing drainage system. What I propose is that, after the Active Parks event, we plan for me to attend one of your 'Friends of ...' meetings and we talk about the play area. I think with the enthusiasm of your group we could look at doing a local consultation and applying for some external funding to do a complete refurb of the play area.

Charitable Status – Sue, Tracy and Bill attended the Finance meeting on Wednesday evening at the Town hall. Roy Lowndes, Richard Doran and Carol Metcalfe were there and representatives from Knutsford, Bollington and South park friends groups. Carol and Roy did a presentation and explained how the budget for parks has been squeezed down but went onto to explain all the different groups we could apply to for various grants, big amounts down to a few hundred pounds. We need to get our constitution verified as this makes applying for grants better and also we need to set up a bank account for the group.

The information we were given has been passed onto Tim.

We have to admit we came out of the meeting feeling more positive about how we will be able to get funding for projects and events in the future.

Pavilion - Thank you to Sue Bidwell and Barry Burkhill for pushing to get the pavilion on a meeting agenda of the Community Policy development Committee. Sue explained that Richard day is doing the surveys at the moment of all park buildings to be published in a review which will then be put into a report. Roy Lowndes did say at the finance meeting it would be published before Christmas this year – so we will have to wait to see. The aim of the report is to suggest possible alternative uses of park buildings or how they could be refurbished but very little money is available for this.

Any Other Business-

Bulb planting event –We will get in touch with Ruth Morgan about this after the Active Park days to get more information about possible dates and any other details. We need to start thinking about who we would like involved, any other entertainment such as music or money raising stalls and how we want to publicize the event. We did discuss inviting the local school children, cubs and brownies and approaching the Jazz band and school bands. Also talked about tombolas and face painting as ideas for stalls.

Any ideas or information please bring along to the next meeting or contact Penny, Steve or Tracy.

AGM – We have set the date of **Monday 20th November 7pm** for our AGM which we will publicize nearer the time.

C.A.T (Community Action Team) – Penny wanted to know if we would be keen to invite a representative from the C.A.T to come along to a future meeting – it was agreed that this was an excellent idea and since the meeting Tracy has left a message to invite them to the Active Park event and to the September meeting. Penny also spoke to a visiting C.A.T representative this week at the park.

Thank you to Sue Bidwell for passing on details about the new Community Action Initiative to Tracy, this can be distributed to anyone interested, just let Tracy know.

Date of Next Meeting –Monday 4th September 7pm in the park (fingers crossed!)