

Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting– **Meeting held – Monday 19th March 2007**

Present: Barbara Pownall, John Pownall, Derek Myerscough, Tracy Bratt, Margaret Wood, Sue Bradshaw, Bill Gerrity, Barry Burkhill, Sheila Rovira and June Lucas.

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

Minutes from last meeting were accepted as a true record of meeting but apologies for putting the wrong date it should have read 22nd January 2007.

Matters Arising from Last meeting –

Dog Bins – Minutes had been sent to Richard Doran and Bill North highlighting the issues of bins, benches and play area. Penny had received a reply to say yes we can have a bench INSIDE the play area as well as those missing outside and they could not give a completion date for work on play area as it had been too wet recently to get equipment down there. Penny had not had any information about the dog bin situation at this point.

Tracy told the group of a suggestion from a local parent who is concerned about taking their children to the park due to dog waste on ground and in ordinary bins – she wondered if we were able to get funding for a bin from local vets, dog grooming parlour and garden centre would the council then be able to put it up and clean it for us? We will ask the council for their views on this.

Holes in Fence between park and Paddock car park – Tracy spoke to Emily at Emmerson on Thursday 15th March and she said they would send someone to check the fence out for us. We will monitor this and contact them again if we need to.

Active Park - We are awaiting details for this years events and Tracy informed the group that in the Ranger booklet 'Get Out' there is a story time session in Meriton Road park down fro Tuesday 28th August so this may be the date for Active Park.

Fundraising in the Future - Tracy had contacted Carole Metcalfe to ask for advice on whom to ask about fundraising for the group even though we do not have charitable status. She was not sure and suggested we email Roy Lowndes, Richard Doran and Jim in the licensing department at the council for advice. Tracy emailed them on Thursday 15th March – waiting to hear from them.

Emily at Emmerson said they would be interested if we wished to use the paddock area for a charity stall or similar in the future as they were looking at ways to use the area for the community.

An idea for the future could be a sponsored toddler toddle or pram push around the park.

Please keep thinking of ideas for future events.

Action – Tim could you look into how we go about fundraising for the group and have we got an account set up for the group yet?

Barry has suggested contacting Kate Rearden in Licensing department.

Play area – as Penny has reported the weather has held up work. We as a group were very concerned for the safety of people in the park as the area had not been secured properly and children had been trying to play on the equipment and throwing pieces of pipe work and gravel around.

Pavilion - No further update on this issue.

Investigating the History of the park - Tracy apologised to the group as she has not been able to contact Wilmslow Express as yet but will make this a priority job. If anyone has any old photographs of park events such as the gala days, or how it used to look and any old information please do let us know as it would make a great display for future events. Margaret will ask at St. Chads if anyone there has any information.

Open gates - No problems have been reported to the group and we are hopeful this will continue but wonder how it will be now the warmer weather is coming along. We were pleased to see in the local paper that Handforth is getting CCTV in the village centre and feel that this may help keep problems away from the park also.

Using the Paddock area – as reported before Emmerson are quite keen to see the area used and would be happy to have a charity stall on occasions.

C.A.T - Penny has emailed and left them all her contact details and explained we would like to discuss ways we can work with them regarding the park area. Barry has suggested contacting Lee Styles and we will ask them come along to our next meeting or send any information that would be relevant to the group.

A.O.B –

Horses in the park –

In our discussion about the health issue of dogs fouling in the park we raised the fact that horses have been walking through the park and along the narrow pathway from Grangeway through to the Lakes

estate past the school. There has been horse manure left near the park and on the alley way which is used daily by children going to school.

We wanted to know whether horses were allowed in the park and do we have any signage to say if they are allowed or not.

Signs in the park-

We felt there was not enough clear signage telling people to dispose of dog waste in and around our park. Also we need new signs on the entrances to highlight the park.

Bulb Planting Scheme –

Tracy informed the group that we have applied for this year's bulb planting scheme as it was a successful morning and we are now seeing the daffodils coming through.

Wilmslow Grange School Grounds Project –

Tracy explained that the school are working on a 10 year grounds project and that she had highlighted the Friends group as a possible resource for ideas, contacts and practical help such as digging etc!

The state of the park and the group's work-

It was felt at this meeting that our park was looking the worst it has for a very long time with broken trees, branches, dog dirt, an unusable tennis court area, lack of seating and bins, a derelict building and a lot of council workers debris left lying around and in the pond area.

The group felt very frustrated at the pace of work and really want to work with the council to make the park the heart of Handforth again but feel their efforts are not being recognised.

We have a really committed group of the community who want to see the park thrive again and will do all they possibly can to make it happen if they are supported in their efforts.

Barbara suggested that we needed to publicize the state of the park and to ask the public and PTA's to contact the council to highlight our complaints.

Change of Meeting Place –

It was felt that the Railway Pub was too busy for our meeting and it was too difficult to talk to each other. The next meeting will be at Tracy's house and then hopefully the next few will be in the park if weather is fine. Please let us know if you can think of any other places we could meet in the Autumn.

UPDATE SINCE MEETING –

Since the meeting work has begun on the play area again (re-chipping the area) and hopefully the new benches and bins will be installed very soon.

Ruth Morgan has reported back our concerns to the council and emails from Barry and Penny have also highlighted issues.

The Active Park event will take place at Meriton Road this year and Tracy and Penny are in contact with Ruth about this.

Date of Next Meeting –

Monday 30th April at No. 19 Meriton Road(opposite park gates!) 7pm