

Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting– Meeting held – Monday 20th November 2006

Present: Penny Millington, Marjorie Walker, Margaret Wood, Tracy Bratt, Bill Gerrity, Barry Burkhill, Barbara Pownall and John Pownall.

Apologies: Tim Greenwood and Pat Degnan.

Minutes from last meeting were accepted as a true record of meeting.

Matters Arising From Last Meeting-

Update on playarea drainage work-

Barry explained to the group about an email he had received from Roy Lowndes about the work being completed on the play area.

The job involves laying pipe work to the path elevation of the play area including running a link to the existing pond area, this link will pick up existing pipe work which will be rodded and jet washed. All pipe work will then be covered/backfilled with washed stone followed by covering with a terram liner, followed by replacing the bark safety surface.

The whole park is in need of a completely new drainage system...Hopefully in the not too distant future we, including the friends group, can fund this work.

Many thanks to Barry for continually emphasising the need for drainage in our park to the council. We will contact Roy Lowndes and offer any support we can to fund future drainage work in the park.

Chair Person's Report 2006

Over the past year we have worked hard at getting a feeling of the community and their thoughts about the Park. We have now carried out 2 surveys.

Recently, we successfully held an event in the Park, which involved planting bulbs. This event was well attended by members of the community and was a very enjoyable morning.

The play area is at present being re-laid and hopefully new benches and bins will follow shortly.

I would like at this time to thank everyone for their efforts in making the Friends group work and I think you would all agree a special thank you to Tracy for all her efforts in the last year.

We still have a lot to do and hopefully in the following year we will be able to set up a bank account and start applying for sponsors to help us continue in making the park a more enjoyable place for all to use.

Penny Millington 20-11-2006

Election of committee – All the following people were nominated and seconded by the group members.

Chairperson –Penny Millington

Vice Chair –Barbara Pownall

Secretary –Tracy Bratt

Treasurer –Tim Greenwood

Treasurer's Report

Tim will present information at the next meeting. He is at present working through the questionnaire responses.

We have also asked Tim to give us feedback about setting up an account for the group.

Terms of Reference-

A few changes were made as follows–

-It was agreed that there needed to be at least 6 people present for the meeting to go ahead.

-If the chair and vice-chair were unable to attend a meeting then it was agreed that if 5 people and a committee member were there then the meeting could still go ahead.

-How do we keep people informed? The minutes will be distributed by the secretary and we have the web page to publish minutes and other information about the group's work.

- We will keep the meetings to one hour duration.

-Venue – we wanted to try a more central village location and so have approached the Railway Pub and we can use their meeting room.

Any Other Business-

Tracy had received an email from Ruth Morgan about the play area and bins – Yes we are putting an extra drain in at the entrance of the play area. The seats will go in shortly after completion of the play area.

I don't have any feedback about your dog bin specifically although I do recall that the bins that you were promised were part of a sponsorship deal. Unfortunately, that deal fell through. I also am not sure who deals with dog bin issues here at the moment. I will email the person who used to deal with it to find out what's going on.

Tracy will contact Roy Lowndes and Bill North about the bin situation and keep up the “pester power”!!!!

Holes in the fence near Paddock car park –

Tracy will try and speak to someone on the phone as Emmerson have not responded to an email from the group stating the need for the fence to be made secure.

Active Park-

Tracy was unable to attend the wrap up meeting for this year's work but emphasized our interest in holding the event next year.

Stephanie McCurrie and Ruth Morgan sent out the following-

Active Parks 2006 - Evaluation

We discussed the positives and negatives from this year's events. It was felt that the simple activities for example the obstacle race, mask and kite making, story telling and fruit and veg competition worked really well. There was a general consensus that the sport specific demonstrations were 'nice to have' but not necessarily that popular and that the OSCAR bus wasn't that useful for the purpose of these events.

The group agreed that the events should only aim to raise the profile of the parks and play areas and be used as a vehicle for increasing physical activity.

Active Parks 2007

Ruth and I proposed that the Friends of the Park groups should lead on the organisation and co-ordination of the events next year. Ruth and I will still be available to attend meetings and provide contacts and support. The group agreed. South Park Macclesfield, Meriton Road

Handforth and Congleton Park will continue to be involved as this year and reps from The Carrs Wilmslow and Bollington will be invited to join the group.

We talked about dates for next year's events and proposed either July 30th/31st (Mon and Tues) or August 6th/7th (Mon and Tues). We needed to pin down some dates so that we could start to think about advertising - Get Out magazine (MBC) for example.

General

We agreed that for now we should just use the group as a forum to discuss and plan for next year's Active Parks events. Once the events are on the way to being co-ordinated, we can return to the terms of reference for the group and begin to discuss future direction.

They will next meet in the New Year and Tracy will attend the meeting and feedback to the group. We look forward to a fun filled and fingers crossed sunny event in the park !

Change of Venue for meetings –

We discussed ways we could increase our membership numbers and we thought it may help if we met in a more central venue for the village. The Railway Pub was suggested as Scouts and other groups meet there and they have agreed that we can have our next meeting there.

We would like to thank Jean and Mike for their generosity in allowing us to meet at the Community House for the last year and it has been a very welcoming venue for us all.

Fundraising in the future –

We discussed our need to start fundraising now for different projects in the park. Penny asked us all to go and think of fundraising activities or events we could plan for next year.

Marjorie has offered to enquire at the CAB about what laws there are regarding fundraising in the community.

Please let the group know of any ideas at the next meeting or email them to park@handforth.net

WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST FOR 2007

Date of Next Meeting –

Monday 22nd January 2007 at The Railway Pub at 7pm

Emails to - park@handforth.net
Website address - <http://handforth.net/>