

## **Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting– Meeting held – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**Present:** Penny Millington, Margaret Wood, Tracy Bratt, Bill Gerrity, Barbara Pownall, John Pownall, Derek Myerscough, Elaine Brooks, June Lucas and Sheila Rovira.

**Apologies:** Marjorie Walker, Sue Bradshaw, Barry Burkhill and Sue Bidwell.

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

### **Matters Arising From Last Meeting- Dog Bins !!!!!**

Sheila raised the issue of dog bins and we explained our on going saga of trying to get at least one dog bin to replace the missing one which is now heading to a year long battle! We are all concerned by the health issues of dog fouling in the park, at least if there is a bin people can be requested to dispose responsibly. The people who clean up the park have also spoken to Penny and explained how they are concerned by the lack of dog bins and how they are expected to empty the ordinary bins with dog dirt in which is a real health issue.

Penny and Tracy will go back through all the minutes and emails regarding the issue and use pester power yet again to try and get a dog bin guaranteed for the park in the next few months.

### **Holes in the fence near Paddock car park –**

Tracy will speak to someone at Emmerson regarding the securing of the fence.

### **Active Park-**

Tracy is waiting to hear when the next meeting will be to establish a date for the Active Park event this year so that we can go ahead and start contacting local music, sport and art groups who may be interested in attending this year. If anyone has any contacts we could use for community groups such as sport, youth activity groups, art or music please let Tracy know and she will build up a contacts list for the group's future use.

### **Fundraising in the Future -**

Marjorie has contacted C.A.B to enquire about fundraising events in the community for the group and they have said we need to contact the council to see their guidelines about collecting money. We will follow this up

Some ideas were – pond cleaning and park clean up days involving the Park Rangers. Art in the Park events – hands on events encouraging local artists to involve the community in activities. Any contacts again gratefully appreciated could be environmental artists, painters, crafts, music, dance etc.

Penny has asked the group to think of any other ideas and come along with them to the next meeting.

### **Update on playarea drainage work-**

We have contacted Roy Lowndes, Richard Doran and Bill North to offer any support we can to fund future drainage work in the park. Tracy and Penny will contact them again to ask what the time scale for the work is and also to ask them to check concerns about pipework being laid has been broken. Tracy has been asked by a group of local parents to request that a bench is placed within the playarea when they replace the benches and bins.

**Drainage of the whole park -** This is such a major issue for the future – we just feel we are at a catch-22 situation as we cannot plan any new projects such as tree planting, picnic areas or sporting facilities because we do not want to fundraise and facilitate a project and then due to bad drainage problems have to re-build in a couple of years. Also event planning is put on hold because the drainage issue makes the park unsuitable and unsafe to use for a large amount of the year.

We will contact Roy, Richard and Bill and invite them to our next meeting to see if they could give us some answers to our questions about the budget available for drainage in Meriton Road and whether they can reinvestigate the bottom field and brook as the waterlogging is making the bottom field unusable. Hopefully we will get a representative from the council to come along and help us to plan our way forward with this major issue.

**Pavilion –** Tracy read out Bill North's email to the group-

I am afraid that the issue re the park pavilion is not yet resolved. There is a working party looking at all our lodges and pavilions and have yet to conclude their deliberations. So far as the Meriton Road Park pavilion is concerned a number of options are being considered, leasing out is one such consideration. We will keep you informed.

We feel we just need to know a timescale and the options they are considering so that we can begin to plan future projects as the pavilion is such a big concern for park users and such a big eye-sore at the moment. Bill will be invited to our next meeting.

**Any Other Business-**

**Investigating the history of the park -**

We have had an email suggesting that it may be a good idea to include on the web page some old pictures of the park and some history of the park. If any of you have any old photographs, documents or information about the park please could you let us know and we will try to build up and archive of information. Barbara suggested contacting Wilmslow Express and an old paper called Wilmslow World to see if they have any photographs from the Gala days.

**Open Gates –**

Barbara made the comment that she felt there hadn't been any issues or problems since the park gates have been open at nights. We all agreed and wondered if it was the Winter or there being "no challenge" to getting in the park that has put off unwelcome visitors. We were pleased that it has been quiet and hopefully this will continue. Let us know your views.

**Using the Paddock area for small events –**

Elaine suggested that we should contact Emmerson to see if we could use the Paddock area to hold a small fundraising event which would raise funds and highlight community activities and groups. This is an excellent idea and Tracy will enquire about this when she phones about the fence.

**C.A.T –**

We will try to contact the C.A.T team to see if they would like to send a representative to a future meeting to discuss how we could help in any community projects that may involve the park.

**Date of Next Meeting –**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at The Railway Pub at 7p**

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