

Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting– **Meeting held – Monday 24th April 2006**

Present: Penny Millington, Steve Greenlees, Derek Myerscough, Tracy Bratt, Bill Gerrity, Tim Greenwood, Marjorie Walker, Richard Doran and Cllr Barry Burkhill.

Apologies: Margaret Wood, Sue Bradshaw and Irina Wood.

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

Matters arising –

Letter to Mr Menlove and Conservative Committee at Tatton:-

We have received a reply from Conservative Committee and Steve has responded to this. It is felt that we have made our point to the committee that they need to contact community groups prior to publishing any information about their work as the implied links to political groups can affect a group's future work.

Richard Doran

We welcomed Richard Doran and he introduced himself to the group. He is Countryside Officer and works with all the rangers. He works with Roy Lowndes and is covering the Friends groups while Christine is on sick leave.

Richard reported back on the following issues-

Dog Waste Bins – Phil Brown, the dog waste officer has confirmed that Meriton Road Park will receive one of the 25 sponsored dog waste bins. No definite date as yet but soon!

Closing/Opening Times – Elizabeth Hargreaves is now working the summer months and closing times will be 8.30 - 9pm.

Richard will look into getting a sign stating times for our park. Cllr Burkhill raised the issue of opening times which is especially a problem during the winter months for people trying to get to the school, the gates need to be opened 8am onwards.

Richard explained this will be difficult especially as council workers do later hours and do not work Fridays. He will follow this up but said we may need to discuss the possibility of using a rota of volunteers to open and close the park in the winter.

Planting Events – Richard explained that the council now have no spare bulbs or plants as they buy the exact amount needed for all planted beds in all the parks in the borough.

We can contact Ruth Morgan who has put Meriton Road Park down on her list for a planting event.

Tracy will contact her to discuss our ideas for the Autumn bulb planting event we had discussed.

Richard said there are 3 large standard trees, stakes and compost available to each Friends group. The rangers could also be available to help us organise a tree planting event.

We can also have 6 smaller free trees.

Next step is 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 as they will come along and promote the event.

Play Day 2006

Tracy reported back to the group that it is now definite that Meriton Road Park will be used for this half day family event. This is great news as it will bring people into the park again. The proposed dates are the first week in August but a definite date is not yet confirmed. The focus will be on encouraging Family involvement in "old fashioned" sports day type events, such as egg and spoon races, welly wanging, running races etc. It is hoped we can also have demonstrations from local groups such as cubs, sports associations and music groups. The rangers will be there to staff the events and also provide quieter activities such as puppet shows, storytelling, kite making and nature talks. Tracy will be attending the next meeting May 11th and will report back to the group.

Questionnaire

We looked at the re-drafted questionnaire and discussed changes to be made. It will be printed on one sheet, black on yellow and spaces for multiple feedbacks. Tracy will liaise with M.B.C to organise the printing of 3000 copies. When we come to delivering the questionnaires we will divide up the areas for each group member to distribute. We will offer to attach the Play Day information with our questionnaires.

The following have agreed to have a response box –Somersfield, Spar, Wood's newsagents and the Library.

A.O.B

Dog Fouling meeting

Penny has received an invitation for the group to send a representative to the Review of Dog Fouling(!) to be held at Macclesfield Town hall Friday 2nd June 6.30pm. Penny will go along if she is available but it is during ½ term holidays.

Summer Meetings

It was agreed that during the summer months we would hold our meetings in the park (weather permitting).

Astra Zeneca Grants – Irina Wood has highlighted the issue of the state of the children's play area, this has also been raised by people to Cllr Burkhill and to members of the group. Irina wanted us to be aware that Astra Zeneca and Syngenta give grants to community projects and wondered if we could highlight the play area for future development and apply for these grants.

This will definitely be a future plan and we will also apply for the airport grant.

Ruth Morgan is also our contact for play area redevelopment and Tracy will contact her regarding the above.

Richard will contact Roy and Bill North to look at the current state of the play area to see what short term solutions can be arranged to allow people to use the play area.

Drainage – We discussed the need for drainage problems to be sorted before we plan any major redevelopments such as the above. Richard will highlight this for to the council.

Charitable Status - Tim will push this forward for us as it will be beneficial for us when we go on to apply for grants.

Also Richard explained there is a £200 float for each friends group. To obtain this we need to send a formal letter to Roy Lowndes stating our constitution, committee members and our group bank details. We will do this as soon as we have set up our bank account.

Friends Meeting – Richard asked if we would be interested in attending meetings in September with some of the other local friends group to discuss progress, ideas and any other issues. We said this is a great idea and we would love to be involved.

Litter bins – Richard has noted down where we need more litter bins and will pass on our request.

1 replacement bin near the pavilion

1 new bin at 2nd entrance from Meriton Road near (No.36/8)

1 new bin at the Grangeway entrance

1 new bin at gateway through to the car park.

Date of Next Meeting –

Monday 15th May 2006 at 7pm Community House Knowle Park

<http://handforth.net/>