

Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting–

Meeting held – Monday 29th October 2007 A.G.M

Present: Penny Millington, Tracy Bratt, Barbara Pownall, June Lucas, Sheila Rovira, Pat Degnan, Norah, Sue Bradshaw, Barry Burkhill, Rob Sawyer, Derek Myerscough, Margaret Wood, Elaine Brooks, PCSO Jim Newns and PC Kos Georgas.

Apologies: Ruth Morgan, Vernon Thompson, Tim Greenwood, Heather Huyshe, Marjorie Walker and Paul Marlton.

Chairperson's Report –

This year the park committee and the council have been working closely together to enable projects to happen.

The achievements this year include

- **The very successful Active Parks Day in July which was well attended**
- **The 2nd bulb planting event which was held a couple of weeks ago and again very well attended**
- **The car boot sale which raised some funds**
- **The erection of the new bins**
- **The overhaul of the play area and the successful new drainage, including the new benches in the play area**
- **The replacement of the old benches around the park**
- **The painting of the gates around the park**
- **The setting up of a charitable account for park funds**

We are hoping that we will soon have some bike racks in the park. The CABA work shop with a focus group should provide some good information for the park that we are able to raise the profile of the park and this Friends group further still with the local community.

This year has been very busy and successful in the continued improvement of the park area. I would like to thank everyone who has helped in the organising of these events but would like to make a special thank you to Tracy Bratt who has again been the main facilitator in getting all these activities off the ground.

I hope that the next year will be as productive as the last.
Penny Millington

Treasurer's Report-

Total income £155.15 (£130.15 car boot and £25.00 donation from Handforth in Bloom)

Total Expenditure £82.00

Amount to be banked £73.15

Tim Greenwood

Election of Committee Members

Penny Millington is standing down as Chairperson and we would like to thank her for all work with the group over the past two years.

Barbara Pownall was voted as Chairperson

Sheila Rovira was voted in as Vice Chair

Margaret Wood was voted in as treasurer to replace Tim Greenwood. Thanks go to Tim for helping us to set up our account and collating all our results from the community questionnaires we have carried out.

Tracy Bratt is standing as secretary again. This was accepted by vote.

Minutes from last meeting were accepted as a true record of meeting, apologies for mistake with Marjorie's surname it should have read Walker.

Matters Arising from Last meeting –

Cheshire Year of Garden 2008

Tracy to follow this link to see if we could gain any funding or ideas for events we could participate in.

Pond Area

We discussed the idea of making the pond area more of a feature in the park by possibly clearing it and planting with bog type plants. We discussed with PCSO Newns and PC Georgas the possibility of using youth offenders to do work on the pond. They will make enquiries as concerns over health and safety issues were raised.

We suggested talking to someone at the Wilmslow Garden Centre for advice on types of plants which would be suitable and also see if they might like to donate some in the future. Barbara offered to do this for us.

We will also speak to Christine the park ranger and Ruth Morgan M.B.C on Saturday about their views on the pond area and any plans they may have for it.

We also thought about other local groups we could ask for help would be Handforth Youth Centre, Scouts and Army cadets.

CABE – Spaceshaper

Workshop to be held Saturday 3rd November 10 am – 12.30 meet at No. 19 Meriton Road.

Catherine Abbott has been training to become a Spaceshaper facilitator for CABE (Commission for Architecture and Built Environment). 'Spaceshaper is a practical toolkit for use by anyone - whether a local community group or a professional - to measure the quality of a public space before investing time and money in improving it. The idea is to use the system to see where the park is now and where we want to develop. It will be very useful to use the results we get to form part of our grant applications package when we decide on a major project for the park in the future.

Barry felt that it would be worth asking the council for funding or to commit to certain jobs as they should have money available in their budget at present.

A.O.B –

Ruth Morgan – Ruth has emailed us to explain that she has been moved onto a new project which will take up all of her time and so will not be our link to M.B.C. She has given us a new contact person Claire Brant who will try and help us. We would like to thank Ruth for all her help with the group. We found her very committed and offered a lot of support and encouragement to us.

Paul Marlton- Thank you to Paul for sending in his thoughts about the lack of focal points in the park and that the pond area could be developed. He also mentioned another area could be a semi-secluded garden with some low level landscaping flower beds, shrubbery and seating.

Pavilion - Sheila asked the police for their view on the pavilion area. They highlight the area as a problem and patrol it at weekends and move youths on and confiscate any alcohol found. The whole of the park is a NO ALCOHOL zone.

Penny asked what they would like us to do in terms of the park to improve it. They said the lack of lighting is an issue and it would be good to develop a neighbourhood watch scheme near the park.

This led to discussion and we found out that Derek Myerscough is co-ordinator for a neighbourhood watch scheme which covers half way down Meriton Road. We will try and develop this to extend to covering the top of Meriton Road and down from the middle area too. The police would like to help us with this as it is part of their focus in Handforth to enable the community to work together.

The police explained they have their surgeries at the Contour Housing Offices 2-3pm and anyone can leave notes or concerns here at any time during the week.

They are holding a Community Action Meeting on Tuesday January 15th 2008 at St. Mary's Church Hall 7.15pm for about 1 and ½ hours. All Welcome

They can be contacted on 0845 458 6374 or wilmslowcat@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Tennis Courts - We need to find out when the outer fencing is going to be installed around the tennis court as it is getting very dangerous with holes and coming away from support bars. Any chance of the courts being cleaned up too?!

Painting of the gates and fences – need to follow this up again and also enquire about the signs we are supposed to be getting.

Football areas - Concerns over the big hole near the small football area. The main area which used to be used for football needs to be flattened and new posts installed. There are people interested in setting up a football club locally and we need to try and develop this area.

Tree still needs removing - We still need to get the tree removed from near the small football area.

Logo for group - Rob has asked the graphic people at the airport if they can work on logo ideas for our group.

CCTV – is there any potential for the CCTV to be extended to the pavilion area? We discussed the use of dummy CCTV. The police said they can be a good deterrent as a short term answer.

Friends of the Station –

The Friends of the Station are holding an Open Meeting on Thursday 1st November 7pm at Taylor Young Architects. All Welcome

Date of Next Meeting –

Monday 21st January 2008

Knowle Park Community House (Number 30) at 7pm

Contact us on – park@handforth.net