

Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting–

Meeting held – Monday 30th April 2007

Present: Penny Millington, Barbara Pownall, John Pownall, Derek Myerscough, Tracy Bratt, Margaret Wood, Bill Gerrity, Sue Bidwell, Mary Maczkowiak, Vernon Thompson, Sheila Rovira and June Lucas.

Apologies: None received

Minutes from last meeting were accepted as a true record of meeting but apologies for putting the wrong name for our CAT contact, it should have read Lee Spencer.

Matters Arising from Last meeting –

Dog Bins – Hooray! We are now the proud owner of one dog bin near the Paddock car park entrance. It has taken a long time but we are pleased to receive this one and will continue to ask for more as we were under the impression we had another one promised for the Grangeway entrance.

Holes in Fence between park and Paddock car park – Tracy will contact Emily at Emmerson about this again.

Active Park -

We have a confirmed date of **Monday 23rd July 2007 in the afternoon from 1pm -4pm.**

We are the only park doing this event this year and unfortunately there are no funds available from the PCT or the council as yet so it will be up to us to try and raise enough funds to cover a few items such as providing little bottles of water for children attending and drinks for the people who are demonstrating. We will also have to provide a portaloos which I will enquire about with Ruth Morgan as the council were going to fund this last year.

We have the Fire Service confirmed to come along if not called out.

Cycling Projects from Salford are coming along with some weird and wonderful bikes to look at and try.

The Rangers will be there with a few activities.

Other people who have been contacted but we are awaiting definite replies are –

The CAT team; Handforth Tennis Club; Handforth Scouts; Handforth Guides; St. Chad's Youth team and Wilmslow Lacrosse Club

We will ask Handforth Jazz Band if they wish to be involved.

If anyone can think of any other local sport or youth groups that might be interested please let me know their details. + If you have any skills or contacts that would be of use to us let me know. (Tracy Bratt 01625 252634 or email park@handforth.net)

Penny has said that she can get posters and leaflets printed for the event.

Fundraising for event – We have decided to have a table at a car boot sale to raise funds and we are asking for people to donate objects that we can take along. Penny and Tracy have offered to go along and do the actual car boot sale on **Sunday June 3rd.**

If you can donate any items such as books, toys, household items, clothes, etc etc then they can be delivered to Tracy at No.19 Meriton Road.

We will need volunteers to be available on the actual afternoon of Active Park. The main jobs will be helping to set up 12-1pm, directing people to the different activities, promoting the group's work on a Friends Of the Park Display table, helping with fun races, helping at a craft activity and delivering drinks to demonstrators.

Please let Tracy know if you are able to help on the day.

Members of the group have agreed to ask local businesses if they could offer any freebies or funding- Sheila –asking at the Cheshire

Barbara – asking at Royal Bank Of Scotland

Sue Bidwell – asking at Proton Computers

Tracy will ask Contour Housing and Tesco.

Can anyone else ask other places for us ?

Tracy will contact Wilmslow Express nearer the time to advertise the event and to come along on the afternoon.

FINGERS CROSSED WE ARE NOT RAINED OFF AGAIN THIS YEAR!!!!

Fundraising in the Future –

Our discussion on Active Park led to ideas of holding table top sales on a Saturday in one of the church halls in the future to raise further funds. We could charge so much per table and offer refreshments.

Another idea was to use the idea of a bric a brac or book stall under the canopy in the Paddock.

Keep thinking of ideas for us please.

Mary said that as a residents group we can apply for funding.

I include details of two funding shows sent to us from MBC, I am sorry the first is a bit short notice but if anyone is interested please go along or apply for a place.

Our long term aim is to be able to hold an event such as the Gala days used to be. We realise this is a long way away but at least we can aim in that direction!

Play area –

It has been so good to see it being used by a lot of people recently. We have 2 benches in the depot waiting to be installed outside the play area and Ruth has ordered one to go inside the play area for us. We asked why the small slide had been removed but Ruth is not sure and will investigate for us.

Pavilion -

Penny and Tracy met with Ruth in the Easter holidays to discuss the state of the park and to ask all the groups questions, we also did a walk around the park to highlight broken trees, workmen's rubbish and the general state of the park.

Penny had emailed MBC to see if we could "pretty up" the pavilion by painting a mural on the wall and this seemed to re-highlight the issue of the pavilion again!!! They are sending another surveyor to inspect the inside of the pavilion to give an idea of how much it would cost to get it refurbished or if it is beyond work. We could possibly apply to WREN for a grant of up to £40,000 if we could show it would be used by various community groups.

Ruth will get back to us when the surveyor has been there.

She has agreed to getting the gates painted and they will be black. Again MBC didn't like Penny's idea of getting local children help us to paint them with donated paints!

Ruth is also working on the wording for new signs for the park, which will include 'No Horses allowed' !

Ruth also mentioned that we may get new fencing for the tennis court area in the future as tennis courts were being highlighted in the borough.

Investigating the History of the park -

Thank you to Barbara for her newspaper clippings about the gala days.

Thank you to Mr Hardisty and his wonderful group of Handforth in Bloom for their information and newspaper clippings.

Thank you to Mike Bishop for the information and ideas you emailed to us.

Thank you to Josie Bird and Bill Nicholson for some lovely photographs of the park taken in Autumn and Spring.

We will use all these to make a display for Active Park afternoon.

Open gates -

There is great confusion about this at the moment as Elizabeth is contracted to open/close the gates from the end of March until September but has not been given padlocks to do so!

Ruth is trying to find out about this after Sue Bidwell has contacted her on our behalf.

We are interested to see how things develop as there does not seem to be the problems we had anticipated over the warmer days.

Penny has also recently spoken to local police in the park who explained they are visiting the park as regularly as they can as it is a focus area. They also said they would like to see lighting in the park and open gates as they cannot get access if it is all locked. This is an interesting issue for us to consider.

Bulb Planting Scheme –

We have been accepted for next October's bulb planting scheme and Ruth said we might be able to contact Richard Doran to organise a wood sculpturing display on the morning and to get birdboxes put up too. This would make an interesting event for later in the year.

Wilmslow Grange School Grounds Project –

No further news on this as yet.

A.O.B –

Cutting the grass – Sheila raised the issue of the long grass in the middle of the areas being left too long. It has since been cut down.

Broken Trees – We felt very concerned about the broken trees. Ruth did photo all the dangerous trees (near Hampson Crescent entrance, Tall trees surrounding the play area and trees over hanging pond area) and sent them to the maintenance teams. Since the meeting the big branches from the Hampson Crescent tree have been brought down but the others are still dangling dangerously.

Man Hole cover – The covers were both missing but they have been replaced and new concrete has been added to the top.

Grounds maintenance team have had a change around and now our contact is Christine Heathcote the administrator or Dorian Belt the DSO supervisor.

Date of Next Meeting –

Monday 4th June at Meriton Road Park (benches near the pavilion-please bring a chair if you have one)if weather is fine or No. 19 Meriton Road(if it is rainy!) 7pm

DON'T FORGET THOSE CAR BOOT DONATIONS needed before 2nd June