

Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting– **Meeting held – Monday 31st October 2005**

Present: Penny Millington, Christine Belfield, Derek Myerscough, Tracy Bratt, Margaret Wood, Bill Gerrity, Steve Greenlees and Tim Greenwood.

Apologies: Sue Bradshaw, Marjorie Walker, Ashley Pettifer, Laurence Pettifer and Paul Marlton.

Minutes from last meeting- read by group and accepted as true record of meeting 17th October 2005

Terms of Reference – Penny suggested that as a group, we draw up basic terms of reference for our meetings.

-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 6 people and Christine were present then the meeting could still go ahead.

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

- We will keep the meetings to one hour duration.

- Venue- We will continue to meet at The Community House (No.30 Knowle Park)

Matters Arising-

Charitable Status- Tim explained that it is possible for the group to apply for charity status. We would go for trustee status which is for smaller charities doing fundraising. We need to pass a trust deed at a forum to be witnessed and signed. This can be done at one of our meetings. Christine will bring along a copy of the charity commissions constitution for us to use. We also need to have an asset to begin the status which can be a small amount such as £5.00.

Contacting schools, pre-schools, churches and community- Tracy has got permission from Rainbow pre-school to hand out the questionnaire to all parents there. She spoke to a parent from St. Benedicts school who explained the xmas fair is run by the church and so we would need to contact both the school and the church to enquire about sending out the questionnaire or having a stand at their fair. Tracy will also enquire at St.Chads Mums and Tots group also.

Penny and Tim will contact cubs and brownie groups soon.

Penny will contact the Head at the Grange and the Chair of the PTA to confirm the details of setting up a stand at their school xmas fair. We will ask for a table and a pin board to display posters etc.

The xmas fair is on Saturday 26th November at 4pm-6pm. Sue, Tracy and Derek will be on our stand.

Tracy showed the group some examples of posters, leaflets and the photographs Steve had taken and will make a few alterations before printing versions to be used.

Christine will organise the map enlargements and try and put them onto squared paper for our treasure hunt game.

Questionnaire- Thank you to Sue, Derek and Steve for working on question ideas. We went through all the suggested formats and questions and decided upon ten questions which would have categories to tick and then an any comments/ideas space followed by respondent details space.

Steve has offered to work on the questionnaire and will pass it to Penny, Tracy and Margaret for comments before bringing to the group at the next meeting. Christine will be able to get 1000 copies printed for us to distribute. Tim has offered to analyze the data when we have the returned questionnaires.

Pavillion- Christine explained that there is at present an estate officer looking at the pavillion in regard to how and if the building can be used in the future. This may explain why surveyers have been spotted recently!

Drainage issues – Deferred for future meeting.

Name of Park – Christine is going to look into this for us. It was felt Handforth Park would be a good option.

Opening the gates – Penny had spoken to someone about the opening times and they had explained that the park workers are on winter hours now which means from 8am and also they have a new policy of having their vans double checked before leaving Macclesfield so this would mean they could not get to Handforth before 8.30 at the earliest.

Christine asked the group how they felt about leaving the park unlocked all the time and it was agreed that the gates do not really deter those who wish to get in but the main gate at Meriton road is important in keeping vehicles out at night. It was agreed to ask in the questionnaire what the community felt about locking the gates. It was also put forward that if we only had the main gate to open and close then we could work on a rota to have keys and do this ourselves.

Free Trees – Christine had looked into this and unfortunately they are not relevant to the park groups in the district.

Using The Community House- It was agreed that this meeting venue is excellent and we would like to continue to use it. Jean who organises the community house would also like to attend our meetings and we look forward to welcoming her to the group.

Any Other Business-

Website- Tracy explained that her husband has offered to set up a web page for the group to use. It was felt that it would be an excellent way of informing people about our aims, future projects and long term ideas for the park. We could publish the latest minutes for all to see and add pictures and comments, it will be an evolving project and after initial input from Mike, the group will be left to develop it as they wish. It is under construction at the moment but you can get an idea of how it may look by going to <http://handforth.net/>

Christine also told the group that the parks and leisure site at Macclesfield borough council will also have a page for all of the friends groups also.

<http://www.macclesfield.gov.uk>

Involving the press- It was felt that in the future, when we are more established, ready to work on a project then we would get the press involved to publicise our aims for the group.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 14th November 7pm