



### **Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting–**

**Meeting held – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**Present:**, Barbara Pownall, John Pownall, Margaret Wood, Vernon Thompson ,Derek Myerscough, Tracy Bratt, Sheila Rovira, Jennifer Banks, Liz Wilson, Jo Langton and Terry Ellis,.

**Apologies:** Marjorie Walker, Rob Sawyer and Isabelle Bachofner.

### **Minutes from last meeting–**

The section in minutes regarding the election of committee should have read -

As no other nominations were received, the group agreed that the following people be elected.

### **Nominations for Committee Members 2009**

**Chair – Barbara Pownall** – nominated by Margaret Wood

Seconded by Jennifer Banks

**Vice Chair – Sheila Rovira** - nominated by Barbara Pownall

Seconded by Derek Myerscough

**Treasurer – Margaret Wood** - nominated by Jennifer Banks

Seconded by Sheila Rovira

**Secretary – Tracy Bratt** - nominated by Margaret Wood

Seconded by Sheila Rovira

**Meeting Dates** – There is only one Monday (May Bank Holiday) which will need to be changed. An alternative date will be decided by the group.

The minutes were then accepted as a true document. Proposed by Jennifer and Seconded by Barbara.

### **Matters Arising –**

-Barbara took this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and to express our hopes that 2009 will be a successful year for Meriton Road Park in terms of events, facilities being maintained and installed and encouraging new people into the park.

-Liz has spoken to Brian Hallworth, the Park Ranger and Tracy will contact him also to work on planning some events the Ranger service could hold in the park this year.

-Community Carol Service – Barbara and Margaret said how well the Christmas Eve Carol service had gone in the Paddock with over 100 people attending. The Paddock had worked well as people could use the seating areas and the covered shelter.

-Rachel Gee from Contour Housing has said that she hopes to work with the local community groups and services to set up links for all the websites so that we can promote our work and share information. It was agreed this would be a great community link.

We hope to join with other groups in different events through the year.

**\*Next C.A.M meeting is Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.15pm at St. Chad's Church (\*note change of venue)**

-We looked at the suggested timetable of community events that RESPECT Handforth had worked on and added where we could link up with their events and where we could put in events –

**January** – CAM meeting 27/01/09

**February** – Clean Up day + Sports Initiative – we will encourage our group members to take part by tidying the park.

**March** – We are planning to work on a facility Survey during March and April which will involve us asking people about how they use the park and what they would like to see there etc. We plan to do this in the Paddock area to try and catch the shoppers.

**April** – RESPECT are planning an Easter Egg Hunt we wondered if we could link up and involve the use of the park as one of a locations.

**May** – Spath Lane Community Group are opening their play area.

**June** – We will try and arrange a Ranger event in the park or have a sports activity with the sports development workers. Fund raise for PLAY DAY- attend a car boot sale with group donations?/ideas?

**July** - We will try and arrange a Ranger event in the park or have a sports activity with the sports development workers.

**August** – National PLAY DAY Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August we hope to hold our afternoon of sport and community activities.

Connexions have a 2 week initiative of events

**September** – Possibly another Ranger event?

**October** – If there is a Clean Up Day we will help with this or we may combine our own park clean up with a planting event.

**November** – Community Fireworks at Stanley Park (Fire Service + RESPECT Handforth)

**November/December** – Friends of Meriton Road Park A.G.M

**December** – Community Carol Singing (Churches Together + RESPECT Handforth)

-Jo suggested we contact Macclesfield Town Football Club as they have sports development workers who could set up events for us in the park. This would be great for the Summer months and our PLAY DAY afternoon.

**Road Signs** – Rob Sawyer has passed on details of who to contact at Highways regarding the need for a sign from the main road to the park. Tracy to email Rob Cramer to start the discussions.

**Noticeboard for the park** – Liz gave us some fantastic news that we can use our grant to part fund a notice board with MBC. It will be a large board which will display council park information on one side and we can have the other side for community notices. It will have our Logo on and be a locked display board. It will be placed at the crossing of the paths near the corner of the tennis courts facing the main entrance and Paddock gateway.

No date for the installation but we understand it to be ASAP which is great to hear.

We would like to thank Liz for her help in organising this.

**Pathway to Wilmslow Grange Primary School** –

Liz and Rob Sawyer met with the Cheshire County Council official and he put the planning application in before Christmas and should have news by February.

**The Pavilion and Model Trains** –

There is no news on this as yet. We will contact the council to see the progress as the Engineers Club will want to find alternative places to establish their trains if they are not given a definite decision by MBC soon. It was understood to be looking positive before Christmas but then apparently the proposal has to go to Cabinet which will be another delay in the process. Barry Burkhill has been contacting MBC and emphasising the need for action and how this project will be of such a community benefit to Handforth. We completely support this and will also contact MBC to ask for a progress report.

**Tennis Courts** –

Our thanks again to Liz for her hard work in getting a successful bid for work to begin on our tennis courts, we really appreciate all her efforts.

They will power wash the courts and re-mark them. We will get 2 tennis courts and the end one will be made into an enclosed 5 aside football/basketball area. The whole of the tennis court/football area will be re-fenced with heavy duty weld mesh at the bottom and lighter at the top with 4 entrances at each corner. Possibly work will start before April ?

We are thrilled with this news and feel sure the courts and pitch will be used a lot by the community.

**MBC website** –

Liz explained that Kathy is working on this and it will be a good link to all the Friends groups.

**Any Other Business** –

Rob Sawyer suggested we contact Margaret Burns from Friends of East Avenue Park in Heald Green to see if she would like to come to our next meeting or the one in March to talk about how they have developed their area and offer any ideas and advice to our group. This was agreed by the group and Tracy will contact Margaret.

**Horses in the park** –

Derek reported seeing a pony in the park recently. We need to take any details of any horse and rider seen in the park so that we can report this.

**Drainage in the park** –

This is a major issue in our park and we wanted to know if MBC have any thoughts on assessing this in the future. Liz will look into this issue for us.

**Pond Area** –

We discussed this in regard to the drainage issue and how it affects pond. Jo also said we should look into any local conservation groups who would be interested in working with us in developing the pond area.

**Monitoring and Reporting Process** –

This will be discussed at next meeting – for example who do we contact if we find damage/problems in the park. Liz to find out contact numbers etc.

**Designing our Facility Survey** –

At next meeting we will look at the questions we want to ask and also how to get the responses. We discussed how a pictorial display may be good and the idea of putting stickers on a large map of the park representing what people wanted for the park eg flowers, sports, picnic areas etc. Barbara asked us to look around for any pictures or stickers that might be relevant and bring along to next meeting. We hope to work on this at February and possibly March meetings ready to use in March/April.

The idea of handing out a business type card with our logo on, contact details and meeting details on was suggested and it was agreed this was a great idea.

**Next meeting** –

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 7pm at St. Chad's Church Lounge**

Contact us on -Emails to [park@handforth.net](mailto:park@handforth.net)

Website - <http://handforth.net/>

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