



Friends of Meriton Road Park Group

Meeting held – Monday 7th December 2009

Present: Liz Wilson (C.E.C), Barbara Pownall, Margaret Wood, Tracy Bratt, Sheila Rovira, Vernon Thompson, Roland Lomax, Derek Myerscough, Sara Knowles and Robert Pownall.

Apologies: June Lucas, Rob Sawyer and Jenny Banks

Minutes from last meeting were accepted. Proposed by Barbara and seconded by Sheila.

WREN application has been received and they have sent a letter to ask for some further details. Liz has spoken to Katy Phipps at WREN to clarify details about the council being our 3rd party funder and that we need to clarify and detail costs for extras to our plan which will be funded by others such as the benches, litter bins, footstep markers and extra equipment. We hope to get this information together this week or earlier next week.

Also any other letters of support for the project would be appreciated particularly from teenagers wanting extra equipment in the park. If you wish to email any please send to park@handforth.net

ACTION – Tracy to ask schools for contacts for pathway markings, Barbara to arrange other letters, Liz to get letter to clarify council's 3rd party status and look into costings for benches, bins and markings.

Drainage report –

Liz has received the report on the drainage needs in the park. She will look into other companies for quotes also. They said it would be £13,000 for the old bowling green area and £20, 000 for the area where the train is planning to be installed (field backing onto Grangeway). The football pitch and lower field were also assessed.

We cannot do anything about the drainage as yet as there is no funding for it at the moment.

Signs for the park –

Liz has received some plans for the proposed signs to go on the main road, outside the park on Meriton Road main entrance and in the Paddock car park next to the hedge entrance. The price is maximum £500 but there is no budget for these so it may be a project we can fundraise for next year. Liz has also spoken to someone about the idea of fingerposts for all the village places of importance they said that because Handforth has had the recent refurbishments of modern street furniture it would not be appropriate to have the black/gold antique style fingerposts. This is just something to think about for the future.

Public Liability –

Liz explained that all voluntary groups should have their own public liability insurance for up to £5 million. We discussed this and felt we needed to find out more in particular how much it would cost as we do not have a regular income.

ACTION – Vernon to look into this for us and Tracy to ask the Model Engineers about their public liability cover costs etc.

Dog Warden –

Liz passed on contact information for Tracy to contact regarding a possible event in May promoting responsible dog ownership.

Dead Wood removal –

Liz asked if the dead wood had been removed but it has not yet- Liz to report it.

Model Engineers-

We asked if there was any news- no one has heard anything yet but they have been in the pavilion on Wednesdays and at the weekends.

Ramp/Picnic tables –

Liz showed us the plan for the new ramp which will be built in the next financial year. Picnic tables should be installed before the end of this financial year.

Charitable Status –

Sara has been looking into charitable status and what is needed. If a group has £5000 then they should become a charity and you are then regulated by certain rules and guidance. They ask you for a 5 year plan of what you want to achieve for your group. We said we needed to know more and would need to discuss this further and decide if this was the right way forward for our group. We will put this on the agenda for next meeting.

AOB

Wet Pore surfacing for the playarea- Sara is looking into costings for this as a possible future project. Liz explained that the council is looking towards different more natural approaches to playground surfacing and would be interested to see how the grass matting works out for the fitness zone area before planning to resurface the play area.

CRB – We discussed this and asked if we need to be CRB checked if we are attending our events in the park.

ACTION-Liz to check at the council what their position is for us.

Mr Tom Scanlon – Tracy informed the group that Mr Scanlon, who had been the park keeper at Meriton Road Park, had died last Thursday. We send our condolences to Mr Scanlon's family.

Heritage Lottery Fund meeting – Sara and Rob are going to attend this meeting in Crewe to see if we would be eligible to any grants from this fund.

The pond area – Roland explained to us all that the pond in the park is the last remaining pond in Meriton Road. There had been 4 ponds but this is the last so it is an important part of our park.

CHURCHES TOGETHER – CAROL SINGING - Christmas Eve 6.15 pm in the Paddock – please come along if you can to support this community event.

**We would like to wish everyone a MERY CHRISTMAS and
a HAPPY NEW YEAR -
see you in 2010!**

Date of Next Meeting –

MONDAY JANUARY 4th 2010 at 7pm at St Chad's Church Coffee Lounge.

Everyone Welcome