

Minutes for Friends of Meriton Road Park Group Meeting-- Meeting held – Monday 9th July 2007

Present: Penny Millington, Ruth Morgan, Barbara Pownall, Derek Myerscough, Tracy Bratt, Margaret Wood, Bill Gerrity, Vernon Thompson, Gary Barton, Phil Barton, Ashley Pettifer, Leonard Pettifer and Heather Huyshe.

Apologies: John Pownall, Tim Greenwood, Sheila Rovira, June Lucas, Elaine Brooks and Audrey Youngman

Minutes from last meeting were accepted as a true record of meeting.

Matters Arising from Last meeting –

Holes in Fence between park and Paddock car park –Ruth will enquire whether it is a possibility to make the hole in the hedge into an arch gateway to allow access to park.

Active Park - Tracy met last week with Ruth, Stephanie McCurrie and Brian Hallworth to finalize plans for this year's Active Park event on Monday 23rd July 1-4pm.

We are desperately hoping for better weather and going ahead as planned but will review weather on the morning of 23rd. Our attending clubs and activity organisers have been warned that we may have to cancel at short notice and this is printed on the posters too.

Hopefully the following people are coming along to work with the children and promote their clubs – Handforth Tennis Club, Adam Young (sports community worker) doing multi-sports, Wilmslow Lacrosse Club, Salford Cycling Projects, Wilmslow Fire Service, St John Ambulance, Wilmslow Community Police, Macclesfield Rangers doing a variety of nature, craft and sport activities, St.Chads Church, Friends of Handforth Station, Handforth in Bloom and our Friends of the Park display and table.

Barry Burkhill will be coming along with Sue as Mayor and Mayoress at 2pm too.

Donations received so far are – Tesco £10 voucher which has been used to buy pens, pencils etc for the goody bags, Lidl are going to provide 60 small bottles of water and 25 small cartons of juice, Shentons farm shop are going to provide a piece of fruit for all the goody bags.

Since the meeting The Cheshire Building society have provided a big box of balloons, pens and plastic bags. Barclays have donated pens, key rings and magnets.

We have healthy eating promotion leaflets and Macclesfield council open space booklets and other leaflets to put in the bags too.

Thank you to the following people for volunteering to help on the day – Barbara and her family, Gary, Derek, Vernon, Heather, Margaret, Ruth, Stephanie, the Rangers team and Tracy+family. Steve Greenless has offered to take photographs during the event.

We will be setting up from 11am onwards so just come along whenever you are able to and jobs will be allocated to you all!

Thank you to Barbara for offering their tent and Gary for offering gazebos – these will be great whatever the weather. Thanks to Penny for offering her craft materials, any other will be gratefully received too.

Ruth will organise some more chairs from the council, we had originally said 15 but maybe we need 25 now.

Ruth said we can have a donation box as long as it is clearly stated it is for the Friends of the Park.

Fundraising

Many thanks to all those who donated things for the car boot sale to raise funds for Active Park and the Friends future events.

Penny, her son Nicholas, Tracy and her Mum Joy braved the early morning start (6am!) and bleak weather last Sunday (8th July) and went to Holly lane car boot at Styal. It was very sludgy and kept clouding over but we were there until 12.30. We made **£130.15** which is excellent considering it was not very busy. Unfortunately we could not store any left over things and so we distributed them to five different charity shops in Heald Green and the Cheadle area.

The money will go into the group's account which Tim has set up for us with Lloyd's Bank. We do need to take some money for active park goody bag things-notepads, pencils and also £40 for the donation needed to secure St. John ambulance for the 23rd July. The remaining money will go towards future events or equipment for the park. A great first step for the group.

-Penny asked the group to think of ideas for future fundraising activities and events.

Play area – This has been greatly tested by the rain recently and we are pleased to report that there has been no puddles inside the playarea and it has been accessible all the time.
Ruth said the slide would not be back until after the Summer and the 2 benches and bins are still on order.

Pavilion - We need to think about and contact any groups, organisations that we feel may be interested in renting out the pavilion if it were refurbished. It is abit of a chicken-egg situation because as it stands the pavilion does not seem a viable option to future users but the council need to know there is a definite need before they would back any funding or grant applications.
Please let the group or Ruth Morgan know if you know of any groups interested.

Investigating the History of the park - This is ongoing

Open gates - We will continue to monitor the situation but we have not heard of any problems recently.

Bulb Planting Scheme – This will be around October

Wilmslow Grange School Grounds Project – No news as yet

A.O.B –

Looking at results from last year's survey - We had a discussion about the results and as a group we should feel very pleased that we have actually already focused on some of the issues and made some significant changes to the park such as pushing to get new benches, better drainage for the play area, a new dog bin and other bins, the bulb planting and making the local community begin to use their park more. **WELL DONE FOLKS!**

The main results were –

A majority of replies wanted more events in the park, more areas of natural beauty, better sports facilities.

Facilities needing to be improved – the pavilion was highest followed by dog waste bins and seating.

What do you dislike about park – no usable pavilion, anti-social behaviour and dog waste were the highest.

Using the pavilion – majority agreed it needed to be used for letting out, clubs/societies or a tea room.

Name of Park – Big majority said Meriton Road park

Locked/unlocked? – a big majority said completely locked.

Friends Group – The majority said they agreed to a friends group working for them.

Trees- Derek and Vernon told Ruth about the branches dangling from the tree near the pond/play area and also the tree leading down to the bottom field.

Signs in the park- Ruth is going to check these out. She will also look into the painting of the fences as it has been started 'in a manner'!

Tennis Courts- A new net has been ordered and the fence will be repaired in the future.

Meeting Place – Hopefully it will be sunny (!) next meeting and we can be in the park but we will ask Marjorie if she can see if we can use Knowle park meeting house for the Autumn meetings.

Funding Application Course – Heather has applied to go on the course for the group, it will be on 1st August. Heather will feedback to the group. Ruth also said that Carole Metcalf is the Leisure department's funding officer.

Date of Next Meeting –

Monday 10th September at park outside Pavilion or at No. 19 Meriton Road 7pm

Contact us on –

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