

FRIENDS OF MARPLE MEMORIAL PARK MEETING
Monday 23rd January 2006

Present: Peter Clarke (chair), Adrian Ellis, Chris Armitt, Jay Havoleana, Bob Wilson, Jes Wood, Andy Settle, Sue Clarke (minutes),
Kay Blair sent apologies – would be arriving late.

Apologies: Mark Whittaker, Peter Bardsley, Michaela Wood, Dave Burrows, Bill Arden, Rod Manton, Dorothy Manton.

Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted and approved.

Peter welcomed Jes Woods, who lives in Brabyns Park, to the meeting and sent best wishes for a speedy recovery to Peter Bardsley.

Chairman's Report

Peter highlighted achievements from the previous year and on-going projects for the coming year.

- new lighting
- junior play area
- benches
- maintaining the Green Flag Award
- on-line consultation on the web-site
- Jim Heald's bench
- football posts
- litter bins
- two newsletters produced
- graffiti project
- Community Bus support
- Coronation Bench
- involvement with the Locks Festival and the Carnival
- Equal Opportunities policy
- Red Ensign
- new flagpole
- planting of wildflowers
- park house

Peter expressed thanks to all who have been and are involved, particularly to Adrian, Bob and the park lads.

Treasurer's Report

In Mark's absence Peter read out and distributed a copy of the Treasurer's Report.

Election of Officials

Chairman: there were no new nominations for the post. Chris Armit proposed Peter Clarke to continue which was seconded by Adrian Ellis.

Treasurer: again there were no new nominations. Peter Clarke proposed Mark Whittaker, which was seconded by Bob Wilson

Secretary: the post had been vacant. Andy Settle proposed Sue Clarke for the post, which was seconded by Jay Havoleana.

The A.G.M. was then declared at an end and the regular general meeting commenced.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and approved.

Matters Arising

- Jim Heald's Bench: delivered and in storage. Awaiting date from Playground Maintenance for fitting (to be done free of charge as their donation to the fund). A formal opening to be arranged once the bench is fitted.
- RSPB: donation cheque issued to them for help towards cost of cordless microphone.
- Park Cottage: Peter read out an e-mail from Rod Manton expressing concerns regarding the state of the property and its viability as a tearoom.
A nursery group is now apparently interested in leasing the cottage. Peter asked Adrian had he any news regarding it. Adrian said the nursery idea would have to be considered by SMBC's legal department to ensure it tied in with the park covenant regarding use of the cottage.

The nursery in question is Treetops, which is having to move because of the closure of Glengarth.

Jay Havoleana suggested that a representative from the nursery be invited to the next meeting.

- Coronation Bench: manufacture is underway estimate of two months to complete it.
- Newsletter: Peter distributed a rough draft of the latest newsletter produced by Mark Whittaker – interest was shown particularly in the plans for the Charles Ingham Band Room being built at the back of the cinema and backing on to the park.
- Flag Pole: the old flagpole has still not been removed. Peter to contact Fire Service to see if they could incorporate the cutting down of the flagpole in to an exercise for them.
- Graffiti project: still on going.
- Bird Boxes: 6 Blue Tit boxes, 6 Sparrow boxes and 6 Bat boxes all now in place.
- Bulbs: still not arrived. Adrian said it is now too late to plant them anyway. Some daffodil bulbs have been planted down near the tip.

New Year Projects

Peter asked for ideas for projects.

Dave Burrows informed Peter that a contractor was pricing the cost of leveling the sundial. This is not a definite project but keep fingers crossed.

Interpretation Boards still with SMBC.

Younger children's play area – should the Friends group get involved with this and apply for grants again?

Bowling Pavilion War Memorial – to raise awareness of it.

Chris Armitt queried whether the goal posts could be moved to ease wear and tear on the grass. Adrian said not as they are concreted in – the best option was to soil and seed the area.

Floodlight on the War Memorial needs to be repositioned when the old flag post is removed – or does it? Is it needed? Peter to enquire whether it is necessary for the Memorial to have one.

Lights around the library, according to David Brayshay, should have been lit today – obviously hadn't been done. Group felt that as the lights had been in and not working for a year now that maybe the newspapers would be interested in the story. Peter to contact them?

Peter reported that the Locks Society were intending to remove brambles and nettles from the towpath adjoining the Park – could the Group do anything Parkside? Jay felt that there was a place for nettles however if something had to be done then wildflowers should be planted. Bob suggested White Dead nettles, which don't sting.

Jes Wood asked if a Nature Trail had ever been considered for the park. It was generally felt that the park is too small although Bob does show groups around.

Bob reported that an idea had come out of the Community Bus for a Family Fun Day. Peter said he was sure the group would support it. Kay also queried the possibility of an area of the park being given to the Community Bus users for them to plant and look after as their own.

Andy Settle reported that the Community Bus is going “on tour” from 27th July for 2 weeks to raise its profile and gain sponsorship. He queried whether the group would be interested in sponsorship? Peter said he would put it on the agenda for the next meeting when hopefully Mark, as Treasurer, would be in attendance to discuss it.

Next Meeting Monday 13th March 6.30pm in the Library