

Friends Of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 10th October 2005

Minutes

Present: Peter Clarke (Chairman), Dave Burrows, Chris Armitt, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Michaela Wood, Peter Bardsley, Mark Whittaker, Dorothy Manton, Rod Manton, Councillor Andrew Bispham, Sue Clarke (minutes)

1. Apologies: Brian Nash, Bill Ardern

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Correction of Dorothy and Rod's surname from Manson.

Minutes not received by Dorothy and Rod - all other minutes received.

Minutes proposed as correct by Bob Wilson and seconded by Chris Armitt

3. Matters Arising

Park Cottage – Dave Burrows had received a quote for bringing the cottage up to basic standard. Dorothy Manton expressed concern over further deterioration and vandalism to the cottage and provided photographs of damage.

Peter Clarke to contact David Brayshay for any further developments.

Coronation Tree Bench – The Friends Group had received advice from Jim McGarry (SMBC's tree officer) regarding the fixing of the bench. Cheque received from the Community Development Fund for £500 to pay for the bench.

Graffiti Art Scheme – no progress made. Peter said he was too busy to make any progress with this at the moment and asked if anyone would be willing to take it over, otherwise it would be on hold for the considerable future.

Jim Heald Bench – still on order but all going to plan.

Bat and Bird Boxes – all ready thanks to Michaela Wood's husband.

Michaela said that all proceeds from their manufacture are going to the David Lewis Centre for Epilepsy.

Task Day for putting up boxes set for Saturday 19th November 10am – meet at the Memorial.

Flag Pole – new one on order. Dave Myers Tree Care will remove the old one (£200). Dave Burrows asked that the old one not be removed until the new one is in place. Peter to contact Dave Myers.

Newsletter – articles and photographs wanted. E-mail them to Mark Whittaker (mark@marple-uk.com)

Lamp Posts – some are now working, still waiting for United Utilities for others.

4. Park Views – Peter expressed opinion from other sources that the views from the park are beginning to be obscured by trees – could they be removed? – replaced by dwarf trees? – what was general opinion of group? Dave Burrows said that a survey is currently under way of all the trees in the park, which would form part of an Action Plan. Dorothy Manton mentioned a self-seeded lime tree bordering their land and Council land that could be a potential problem. It was felt that the group should await the survey.

5. Remembrance Day – Peter suggested that a Wreath be laid on behalf of the Friends Group on Remembrance Day. All agreed – Peter to order one.

6. Park Reports – Bob Wilson reported that a Special Needs group were again helping in the park – also a group from the Ridge College. A top dressing had been applied to the bowling green and some seed sowing had taken place. He raised the subject of the old playground structure in the younger children's play area – had been told that no funds were available so it had been put on the back burner. Mark Whittaker asked for costs – possible donation to help towards it from the group. A couple of trees earmarked for felling – Peter asked that the stumps not be removed until the group could discuss the possibility of a “Compstall owl” carving or something similar being done for the park.

7. A.O.B.

Posset Bridge – Councillor Bispham produced a letter stating that SMBC are not responsible for repairing the damage. British Waterways are responsible and repair work is scheduled to begin in October.

Councillor Bispham also mentioned the wall near the cinema, which is collapsing. Dave Burrows said it was being dealt with.

Bob Wilson asked about the removal of the log bench near the entrance to the park. Peter said plans were in hand to move it to the woodland area.

Mark Whittaker reported that the Group had received a £50 donation from Marple Carnival Committee. The funds in the bank now total just over £1100 (not including the £500 just received for the tree bench)

Dave Burrows confirmed that the Perspex for the Notice Board is on order. A new apprentice is due to start working in the park. Dave to order £150's worth of bulbs – bluebells and snowdrops – for the Friends Group.

Possible planting on 19th November Task day?

Next meeting – Monday 14th November, 6.30 at the library.