

FRIENDS OF MARPLE MEMORIAL PARK MEETING

Monday 10th April, 2006

Present: Peter Clarke (chair), Brian Nash, Mark Whittaker, Jay Havoleana, Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Margaret Wilson, Ken Wilson, John Spreckley, Bill Arden, Cllr. Andrew Bispham, Sue Clarke (minutes)

Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Chris Armitt

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and approved.

Matters Arising

- Jim Heald's Bench – the family do not require any sort of dedication or ceremony and the Bill is paid so the project is now concluded.
- Sundial – Peter was hoping to have news from Dave Burrows but as he wasn't at the meeting – no further news.
- Park Cottage – no further movement as negotiations are still on going between the Council and Treetops Nursery. Bob reported that there had been an inspection done for asbestos.
- Coronation Bench – should be completed in about 2 weeks. The Group decided on dark green for its colour.
- Newsletter – all delivered. Generally felt that more were needed for next time.
- Letters – a mail shot had been sent out to local schools and clubs. Responses from a couple of schools who were keen to be involved in projects. John Spreckley attended the meeting on behalf of the local Scouting groups.
- Graffiti Project – no news
- Interpretation Boards – Jackie Budd from SMBC had been in touch with Peter who has provided photos and information about the history of the Park. Board should be completed and installed at entrance by May.

- Tree Survey – no news in Dave Burrows’ absence.
- Toddlers’ Play Area – Peter had contacted SMBC for estimated costs. Amount needed well out of Group’s means without a Lottery Application. Micaela mentioned possibly using a scheme through Granada TV. Bill and Micaela to try and progress with this.

Future Tasks

Mark had results of the Park’s on-line consultation, which has been running for approximately two years and supplied the group with copies of the Green Flag recommendations from last year’s judging.

- Wildlife area featured a lot. Peter to contact SMBC’s Wildlife Officer with a view to forming a ‘plan of action’.
(Blue Tits have been sighted in the new boxes)

- Toilets – generally poor facility – no disabled toilet – not open long enough hours.

Cllr. Bispham stated that SMBC are under no obligation to provide toilets. Ideally need a local volunteer who is willing to be a key holder. Cllr. Bispham to contact Cllr. Candler to see if he has any further news.

- Interpretation Boards giving information about the attractions close to the Park i.e. the Aqueduct. Should the group present a plan to the Area Committee?

- Bench on right hand side of road leading in to Park needs repairing only concrete stumps left. Peter to organise.
- Lighting at top of Co-op steps not working – should have been sorted by Co-op – check for next meeting.

AOB

Group agreed (proposed by Ken Wilson and seconded by Mark Whittaker) to pay £50 to have the Friends logo/advert on the Carnival lamppost banners – should last for 6 years. Peter requested that it go on a post near to the Park entrance.

Jay mentioned broken fence at bottom of Park near the canal. Bob Wilson reported that it had been mended.

Thanks to Bob Wilson for cleaning the War Memorial.

Wall around the Memorial in need of pointing – Peter to harass relevant bodies.

Lights still not working alongside the Library – all down to United Utilities.

Group agreed that if a Friends Group was established in Brabyns Park then an affiliation would benefit both Groups.

£50 sponsorship has been paid to the Community Bus.

Park Report

Bob reported on how ice on car park resulted in lady falling and being taken to hospital. Cllr. Bispham reported that the car park is definitely on the list for gritting and salting – suggested that Bob report the incident and situation to his boss while he would write a letter of complaint.

Entrance to Park also gets very icy resulting in risk of cars sliding out on to main road.

Bowling Green now open.

Flowers should be planted by June.

Group keen to get involved with the rockery around the War Memorial. Peter to liaise with Adrian Ellis to get stones in place and also to contact the War Memorials Trust to see about getting the whole Memorial smartened up.

Next Meeting: 22nd May, 6.30 at the Library