

**FRIENDS OF MARPLE MEMORIAL PARK MEETING**  
**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

**Minutes**

Present: Peter Clarke (Chair), Councillor Martin Candler, Michaela Wood, Jay Havoleana, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Chris Armitt, Bill Ardern, Kay Blair, Peter Bardsley, Peter Griffiths (RSPB), Sue Clarke (minutes)

Apologies: Mark Whittaker, Dave Burrows

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

Kay Blair did send her apologies to the last meeting – omitted from the minutes.

**RSPB Request for Assistance**

The local group of the RSPB meet in the Senior Citizen Hall in the park. Funds needed to pay for cordless microphone which links into the “Loop” system. Peter Griffiths attended the Friends meeting to see if the group could help towards costs. Peter Clarke proposed £50 and suggested that members of the RSPB might like to get involved with the Friends Group – Task Days etc.

£50 agreed. Peter Griffiths to be added to Contacts List for future meetings, minutes etc.

**Matters Arising**

Park Cottage – Peter Clarke had contacted David Brayshay who reported that Pure Innovations were very interested in getting involved. They had gone away to their various committees for opinions – still waiting for further response.

Coronation Tree (seat) – Mark Whittaker and Peter Clarke had met with Wayne from Ironwood Metal Art and Peter has spoken to SMBC’s Tree Officer for advice. Ironwood to begin work on the circular seat in January. Appropriate wording for a plaque yet to be agreed. Original plaque also to be recreated plus one to credit manufacture by Ironwood.

Jim Heald Bench – delivery of bench well overdue. Peter Clarke to chase up.

Some concern was expressed over fungus growing on cherry trees in the vicinity of the bench's proposed location – however it was felt that should the trees have to come out it shouldn't have any effect on the bench's location.

Flag Pole – new flagpole now installed and used on Remembrance Sunday. Still waiting for removal of old one.

Remembrance Day – service well attended in the Park. Special thanks to Bob Wilson who represented the Friends Group by laying a wreath during the Service and to Adrian Ellis who was “flagmaster” on the day.

Newsletter – as always articles wanted – send to Mark Whittaker (e-mail: [mark@marple-uk.com](mailto:mark@marple-uk.com))

Lamp Posts – old lamp posts still not removed. Peter asked Cllr. Candler if he could see what the situation is and how soon they might be taken out. Some new lampposts reported as not working. Peter to contact Dave Burrows.

Adrian Ellis pointed out that the spot lamp aimed at the War Memorial will have to be relocated as it is attached to an old lamp post.

### **Graffiti Art Scheme**

Kay Blair volunteered to see if she can progress the project.

### **Bird Boxes/Task Day**

Task Day on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am

- putting up of bird and bat boxes
- planting bulbs (if available)

Peter had contacted SMBC Wildlife officer whose main points of advice were

- away from cats
- away from vandals
- should not be near feeding stations

Peter Griffiths (RSPB) advised that they should not be placed facing due south.

Direction of bat boxes was raised – and also placed where there are no underlying branches. Peter Clarke to see if he can find any advice on the Internet as to direction.

Situation with bulbs not known – Adrian advised that now is the right time to be planting.

Nails and hammers organized for Saturday.

Peter Griffiths left the meeting at this point – giving thanks for the money.

### **Action Plan Update**

Last updated 15 months ago. Group Action Plan to be incorporated with the Park Action Plan.

Peter Clarke went through Action Plan.

### **Profile – OK**

### **Community Involvement**

- Contact other user groups: it was decided to re-letter all local groups who use the Park to encourage membership and involvement with the friends Group.
- Contact Youth Groups: Kay Blair suggested further contact with Andy Settle and the Community Bus, which visits the Park on Thursday evenings.

### **Practical Improvements**

- Paths: it was felt that resurfacing of paths was mainly down to SMBC
- Play Areas: new play area a great success. The original one still in need of improvements and updating
- Toilets: the need for a disabled toilet was seen as a long-term project. Peter suggested the possibility of having hand grabs fitted in to the existing toilets even though it could still not be claimed to be a disabled facility. Kay suggested referral to Social Services and have the toilets assessed for hand rails/grabs. Aids and Adaptations might then be approached to fit/supply them. Jay Havoleana suggested a disabled toilet be fitted in to the Park Cottage as part of the renovations – concern over space.

Cllr. Candler expressed concern over the lack of Sunday opening for the existing toilets which is not part of the existing contract – attempting to get this changed when contract up for renewal. Adrian stated that there are some community open and close toilets in the area.

- Buildings: it was felt that this should be removed from the Action Plan
- Litter: two bins have been installed. Bob Wilson suggested the need for another new bin at the lower end of the Park. Adrian said he could provide the Group with a couple of litter pickers. Emptying of bins on contract – Peter to contact Mark Cotterell at Enterprise House to see which bins are included in the contract.
- Interpretation Boards: still waiting for SMBC to make decision on appearance of boards – colours and styles. Peter to chase up.

#### Heritage Items:

- Stocks renovated. Sundial – plans of suggested renovations etc needed (listed structure) and sending to Paul Hartley.

#### **Park Report**

Bob Wilson reported that the bowling green had been spiked, dressed and seeded. 70 – 80% germination success. Will do more in the Spring.

Summer Bedding plants now in.

New apprentice started working in the park – 3 months – then replaced with another.

Special needs turn up occasionally to help.

Health Walks going well.

Two trees recently removed due to disease – Beech at the entrance and Horse Chestnut near War Memorial.

#### **A.O.B.**

SMBC offering Risk Assessment course on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November for Community Groups. Contact Peter if interested.

Contact list update – please let Peter have e-mail addresses wherever possible.

Bill Ardern suggested that the small garden opposite the Senior Citizen Hall was not particularly user friendly for older people – raised kerb and shale. It was pointed out that it is a sensory garden – reason for shale. Adrian said he will have a look at it.

Jay Havoleana reported misuse of new play area by students every lunchtime. Peter suggested Police should be informed or Community Park Watch on 0161 718 2117.

**Next Meeting and AGM  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006 - 6.30 at the Library.**