

## FRIENDS OF MARPLE MEMORIAL PARK MEETING

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Present: Peter Clarke (Chair), Adrian Ellis, Bob Wilson, Micaela Wood, Jay Havoleana, Mark Whittaker, Chris Armitt, Bill Arden, Andy Settle, Sue Clarke (minutes)

Apologies: Kay Blair, Dave Burrows

### Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and approved.

### Matters Arising

- Jim Heald's Bench – now in place and fitted with plaques. Family to be contacted to arrange a date for the dedication.
- Sundial – Dave Burrows was having a report done – but no news yet. Peter to contact him.
- Park Cottage – not much change in situation. Nursery still interested. A few minor repairs have been made.
- Coronation Bench – not been started yet. Peter and Mark met with Wayne from Ironwood today to take measurements etc. Hopes to start work on the bench on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Should be completed quite quickly.
- Newsletter – 500 printed, now need delivering. Peter asked for volunteers – Micaela, Mark, Chris, Bill, Jay, Peter and Sue all willing. Peter to arrange delivery areas.
- Flag Pole – Dave Myers will remove it
- Graffiti Project – hit delays. Application made to Local Network Fund but then firm who were to do the work backed out due to paint problems. Project now on hold. Peter asked again if anyone was willing to take on the project.
- Interpretation Boards – Jackie Budd (Parks and Recreation) contacted Peter and met in the Park to discuss the boards. Two proposed – one displaying the history of the Park and one displaying the history of the

Locks. Hopefully they will be in place by May before the judging of the Green Flag takes place.

- Community Bus Sponsorship – Treasurer Mark Whittaker proposed the Group sponsor the Community Bus trip around the country for the amount of £50. He expressed concern that the Group was not spending enough money on Park projects, which needs to be seen to be happening when applying for grants. The Group currently has £1500 in the bank, £500 of which is earmarked for the Coronation bench. The Group approved £50 sponsorship.

### Where From Here?

Peter asked for ideas as to where the friends Group should be going. Some ideas were:-

- Bandstand
- War Memorial rockery
- Toddlers Playground
- Oldknow Memorial Plaque
- Time Capsule
- Boggy area in front of proposed Band Room
- Picnic Days

Bandstand – felt that with the Band having a new band room built which is to front the Park this would be a waste of money

Rockery – the area around the War memorial has recently been refreshed with new kerbs and tarmac. The white stones have been taken away and jet washed. Could they be used to form a rockery area that the Friends Group could adopt?

Toddlers Playground – good idea but would need a volunteer to lead it – applying for grants etc. Peter to contact SMBC for their reaction to them doing it without Grants. Adrian Ellis to contact Playground Maintenance for costs.

Oldknow Memorial Plaque – currently “under the stairs” in the old Church Tower at All Saints but the Church have already granted permission for it to be moved to the Park. Needs a design and structure of some sort to protect it.

Time Capsule – somewhere around the Memorial. Could we find it, add to it and put it back?

Boggy Area – valid point from Bob Wilson that the area needs attention if people are expected to sit there and listen to the Band. Peter expressed concern that this was the sort of work the Council should do anyway – not the Friends Group.

Picnic Days – again good idea but would need someone to organise and promote it.

Adrian suggested that the Consultation should be looked at again to see what people want in the Park. Also to look at any Green Flag recommendations from last inspection.

Clubs and societies who use the Park to be sent a letter to try and create some fresh interest and ideas for the Friends Group. New members needed.

#### AOB

Bill Ardern enquired whether any one knew when work on the Council offices was to begin – no one did – suggested he contact SMBC.

Also any news on resiting of the floodlight at the Memorial? Still no decision on whether or not it is needed.

Jay Havoleana commented on the dirt on the War Memorial figure – Bob to have a look.

Bob asked whether there was any news on the situation regarding the trees obscuring the view from the bowling green? Dave Burrows has had a tree review done – Peter to contact him for results.

Next Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2006. 6.30pm at the Library