

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Committee Meeting

Monday 19th January 2004

Minutes

Present: Peter Clarke, Mark Whittaker, Sally Curley, Dave Burrows, Adrian Ellis, Jay Havoleana, Peter Bardsley, Chris Armitt, John Francis, Cllr Chris Elwood

Apologies: Brian Nash, Bill Ardern

Peter opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

Everyone accepted that the minutes were an accurate reflection of the previous meeting and they were agreed.

1. Matters Arising

- Bank Account

Jay had been visiting local banks for information for the Friends bank account, and had application forms for both the Natwest and the Royal Bank of Scotland. Jay reported that the Royal Bank of Scotland do not charge clubs or societies for banking with them and so everyone seemed keen to propose the Royal Bank of Scotland for the Friends account.

It was resolved that a Treasurers account be opened in the name of the Friends of Marple Memorial Park with the Royal Bank of Scotland, and that the terms and conditions were approved by the committee and that the application form be signed on behalf of the group and sent to the Royal Bank of Scotland.

It was also resolved that there would be three signatories for the account able to sign cheques. The people authorised to sign will be Peter Clarke, Jay Havoleana and Mark Whittaker.

- Area Committee Funding

Peter had the application form ready to be submitted but wanted to speak to the committee about the group's current actions before submitting the form. Peter asked for guidance from Cllr Elwood as to how much to apply for. Cllr Elwood suggested that amounts applied for are usually up to the £500 mark. Peter suggested that the group put in for £800. Cllr Elwood informed the group that the next Area Committee Meeting will be on 11th February.

Action: Peter to submit application form and feedback at the next meeting.

- Website

Mark has set up the Friends website that can be found at www.marplememorialpark.org.uk There was information about the group and the meetings held so far as well as an on-line consultation form. Mark stated that there had been one response to the form but it was hoped there would be more. Peter mentioned that the website was also

accessible via The Marple Website and urged people to visit the site. The cost of the site is being funded by Marple Promotions.

- Letters – Schools, stakeholders

Peter mentioned that group should write to all stakeholders to inform them about the Friends and to also involve in the consultation process and activities in the park.

Action: Jay to write to stakeholders on behalf of the Friends.

Cllr Elwood said that there was a Senior Citizens Management Committee Meeting in March and that it would be a good idea if someone from the Friends could attend to talk about the group's aims and establish links.

Action: Peter to attend meeting on 17th March 2004 at 4.15p.m

Jay mentioned that the gardener in the Memorial Park, Chris Huxley, had expressed an interest in attending future meetings. He was under the belief that he had to be invited but the Friends have told him just to come along.

2. Constitution

Peter had produced a draft constitution for the meeting for discussion, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Peter ran through the sections of the constitution. It was agreed not to charge membership fees at present and to re-look at this in time.

Mark suggested that all committee members be listed. Peter said that he had produced a contact list of all committee members.

Cllr Elwood asked if Andrea Nyland, Area Youth Worker, had been invited to a meeting. Sally said that she had made contact with her and she was aware of the Friends and would like young people to be involved.

Action: Peter to contact Andrea and establish contact and invite to the next, or, a future meeting.

Peter suggested that open meetings be held on a quarterly basis for members of the public to attend but that committee meetings will only be open to members of the committee. Jay suggested that posters are produced and displayed to advertise the open meetings.

Peter asked if there were any further comments regarding the constitution. Mark asked whether task days should be included. Peter said that this would be covered under the 'Objectives' under the heading 'To formulate an action plan (to include a variety of projects)'.

Adoption of the constitution was proposed by Peter Bardsley and seconded by Chris Armitt.

3. Action Plan/Community Meeting Report

Peter ran through the report that Sally had produced from the community consultation meeting held in November.

Action: Sally to circulate report to all who attended the community consultation meeting.

Sally had brought an example action plan produced by other friends groups but had incorporated the issues raised about the park from the community meeting. Peter stated that the Friends action plan should work in conjunction with the park management plan.

Peter talked through the draft action plan and there was discussion around a variety of issues.

Cllr Elwood mentioned issues relating to signage and in particular experience at Hawk Green. Cllr Elwood stated that there was now a draft signage policy produced by the council and that the group needs to refer to this when considering new signage. Peter asked if he could see the policy. Cllr Elwood also mentioned considerations if a sign is to be located near a roadside and requested that the group consult with all relevant parties including Parks and Recreation, local residents, Marple Area Committee and possibly Highways, regarding any new signs.

Cllr Elwood also mentioned that she was Chair of Governors at Windlehurst School and it would be good if the Friends could establish links with the school and encourage the use of facilities within the park as part of their reward system. Peter said that they would be contacted.

Peter said that there were plenty of ideas for future task days and Jay agreed. This could also tie in with the park management plan and improvements for Green Flag, including erecting bird and bat boxes.

There was discussion about what sporting activities are allowed in the park and Aidy stated that historically, football and cricket pitches could not be marked up.

Peter talked about dog fouling and litter. Jay mentioned that her vet would give her some leaflets on diseases from dog waste. Peter said that he didn't think it was a big problem in the park at the moment.

Jay mentioned the litter problem and said that the students from the Ridge Danyers College contributed to the problem. Peter asked if the group could write to the college. Cllr Elwood mentioned about the street cleaner which had been piloted in Marple and Edgeley. It had proved to be successful and so it was very likely that funding would be available to make this post permanent.

Peter then talked through the on-site improvements suggested at the community consultation meeting.

- gaps in the bowling green hedge will be sorted
- Aidy informed that there is a programme to improve council offices
- Path near skate park needs repairing

Cllr Elwood mentioned about the SEMMS proposal for new pathways and cycleways to improve access to Marple Station, which will affect the park. Sally had brought

some consultation information and Cllr Elwood urged the Friends to comment on the proposals and provide input on any consultation relating to matters regarding the park.

- no major problems with the war memorial except for the need for a hand rail for the elderly.
- Possibly look at a community hall
- Aidy mentioned about problems with speeding and the need for speed limit signs or lowering the speed limit – this may tie in with the SEMMS Scheme.
- Need for more litter bins with lids around the edges of the park.
- Lighting around youth shelter is to be replaced by the Corporate Youth Strategy
- To establish nature area in a part of the park and the Nature Development Team are involved
- No major problem with the toilets, however, they are not accessible to people with disabilities. Also, there is a problem with them being locked – Cllr Elwood said that at Mellor the residents lock the toilets.
- There was a suggestion to get a Friends noticeboard and have the Chris, the gardener, named as a contact person in the park.

Peter asked if anyone had other suggestions. Mark mentioned about promoting existing heritage features and introduction of new features. Peter said that he was in the process of producing interpretative information. He also said the Friends should have the option to discuss possible new heritage features.

Cllr Elwood asked whether the group had contacted Marple Community News to promote the group.

Action: Peter to contact Diane Ingliss from Marple Community News.

4. Green Flag

Peter said that he had met with Aidy and Dave to discuss how the group can help with the Green Flag improvements. Chris Armit asked what exactly was the Green Flag scheme and Aidy explained. Cllr Elwood asked what improvements needed to be made and Dave Burrows talked through some of the issues.

Sally mentioned about the play equipment and that there was £25,000 in commuted sums available to improve junior play equipment. This improvement was also something highlighted by the Green Flag judges. Sally suggested the group apply to the Living Spaces scheme for £25,000 to match the £25,000 so a new play scheme could be installed for £50,000. The group agreed.

Action: Sally to send for application form and contact Peter to complete.

5. A.O.B

There was no other business

Date of the next committee meeting was set for Monday 23rd February 2004 at 6.30p.m at Marple Library.