

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Committee Meeting

Monday 22nd March 2004

Minutes

Present: Peter Clarke, Sally Curley, Ken Wood (Bowling Team), Adrian Ellis, Jay Havoleana, Chris Armitt, Bill Arden, Mark Whittaker, Peter Bardsley, Cllr Candler, Mrs Wood, Janet Milligan (Ridge Danyers), Mrs Pitcher and Mrs Tarragh (Rose Hill School), John Francis.

Apologies: Brian Nash, Dave Burrows

Peter opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

1. Matters Arising

- Living Spaces

The Living Spaces form has been completed and sent off. Now waiting to hear.

- Letters – schools, stakeholder progress

Letters had been received from Rose Hill School, Ridge Danyers and Marple Hall. Mrs Pitcher and Mrs Tarragh were attending the meeting on behalf of Rose Hill and Janet Milligan on behalf of Ridge Danyers. They were all welcomed to the meeting.

Mr Wood was attending on behalf of Marple Veterans Bowling Team and asked if he could speak first as he had to leave the meeting early. Peter welcomed Mr Wood. Mr Wood raised several issues namely relating to the need for disabled toilet facilities and young people on the bowling green. Peter said that the group could look into putting a handrail in one of the toilets as an aid. Peter also agreed that there are problems with young people playing football on the bowling green. It was suggested that the group could look at providing some sort of kick-about area in the park.

Peter thanked Mr Wood for coming to the meeting and he left.

Peter asked Mrs Pitcher and Tarragh if they would like to talk about issues in the park. They said that the school would like to be involved with projects in the park including the new junior play area.

Mrs Wood said that she thought something adventurous, similar to Lyme Park, would be good for the junior play area.

Peter raised the issue about possibly fencing off part of the park and have one side as a dog free area. There was considerable discussion around this issue. Some people thought it would be a good idea whereas others had their concerns. Cllr Candler supported the idea of creating a dog free area and he also asked the group what they thought about designating the whole park as a dog free area. There was no consensus reached within the group about this issue. Cllr Candler said that he would support the group if they decided to pursue this.

John Francis suggested that the new junior play area could be extended to incorporate an area with picnic tables etc which would be dog free as it would be fenced. The group felt that this would be a good idea.

Peter then introduced Janet Milligan from Ridge Danyers. She said that she had come to listen to what was said and involve the college if possible. Peter said that he had met with Andrea Nyland (Youth Service) to look at young people involvement in the park.

- Agendas

Peter said that the representatives here tonight would be welcome to attend future meetings and if they would like something adding to the agenda, to contact Sally.

Peter had received an e-mail from Brian Nash about the burning rubbish issue raised at the last meeting. He reported that Environmental Health had suggested that the Friends put together a letter to them stating the occasions when the burning was taking place. Peter asked people to make a note and feed back.

4. Advertising/ Raising the profile

It was agreed that flyers are produced and distributed locally

Action: Peter to draft a flyer and send it through to Sally.

There was also a suggestion of a newsletter. Cllr Candler suggested that the group could look at other Friends group's newsletters.

Action: Sally to bring other newsletters to next meeting.

Peter asked for help in producing a newsletter there were no volunteers.

Action: newsletter issue to be put on next agenda.

5. Task Day

- Health and Safety
- Fencing

Peter had done a walk about with a representative from British Waterways to look at the boundary. Cllr Candler said that he had written an official enquiry to them asking about the poor fencing that needs replacing.

There was discussion around the issue of fencing and Cllr Candler raised some health and safety issues. Peter had looked into the costs for replacing an area of fencing once the task day had removed the brambles. The cost was £150.00 and Chris Armitt asked whether the council could pay for this.

Action: Aidy to ask Dave Burrows.

Volunteers on the task day were covered from an insurance aspect as Aidy would be present and both Peter and Mark had been on risk assessment training.

Jay asked about publicity as she had seen some eye-catching posters at Etherow Country Park. Posters will be done and Peter will speak to Pure Radio about advertising. It was agreed that the task day would start at 10.00a.m and finish at 4.00p.m and people could stay as long as they liked.

6. Newsletter

As above

7. Any other business

Jay asked about doing some fundraising events. Peter suggested the Carnival and the Centenary event, and asked the group to come up with ideas. The group can apply to the Carnival Committee for some funds if they write a letter.

Jay mentioned the area around the Cenotaph and the possibility of more bedding and flowers. Aidy said that summer bedding would be planted in that area and that the park needs some time to develop and then identify areas that need development.

Mrs Tarragn asked about hanging baskets. Cllr Candler said that there would be hanging baskets this summer but that Marple was also on the route for Britain in Bloom this year. District Centre Partnership has asked if the judges could stop in Marple rather than just driving through. There will be more discussion about this.

Jay asked Janet Milligan from the Ridge Danyers about horticulture training and she said she would find out. There was some discussion around plants and bedding. Cllr Candler said that there were a variety of plants at Woodbank nursery for use in the park and this was very important in terms of the Green Flag.

Aidy said that the Green Flag application had been submitted. Peter said that a lot of work had been done in the park and it is now looking really good.

Cllr Candler asked about further developments and mentioned about a butterfly garden. Peter said that the group were looking at the area at the back of the cinema as a wildflower area that would hopefully attract butterflies. Cllr Candler also mentioned about interpretation panels that explained about various interest and viewpoints from the park. Everyone agreed that this would be a good idea.

Chris Armitt asked about the cycle path proposals. Cllr Candler said that he thought that the proposals would go ahead but there were issues that were still under discussion, but that the work would not coincide with the carnival.

PC John Francis said that now that the nights are getting lighter, more young people will be using the park. He encouraged the group to report any incidents to the police and they will investigate. Cllr Candler agreed with John. He also said that the councillors support providing facilities in the park for young people as long as they respect the park and other users. Peter agreed.

Cllr Candler proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair and Peter Bardsley seconded the proposal.

The meeting closed.

Date for next meeting will be Monday 19th April 2004 at 6.30p.m at Marple Library.