

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Committee Meeting

Monday 19th July 2004

Minutes

Present: Peter Clarke, Jane Christie, Sally Curley, Mark Whittaker, Peter Bardsley, Chris Armitt, Bill Arden, Michaela Wood, Robin Townsend, Cllr Chris Baker.

1. **Apologies:** Adrian Ellis, Chris Huxley, Dave Burrows, Jay Havoleana

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

There were a couple of amendments to the minutes. Ken Wood should have read 'Ken Wilson' and there was no mention of the graffiti issue raised last time.

Acceptance of the minutes were proposed by Mark Whittaker and seconded by Chris Armitt.

3. **Matters Arising**

Tree Trunk Seat

The seat has been carved by Dave Myers Tree Care, so many thanks for that. However, it was agreed that the seat will probably require drainage holes that will have to be done in the near future. Peter Bardsley informed the group that a couple of people had mentioned to him about splinters.

Green Flag

There will be no news as to whether the park has been given a Green Flag until September. The official announcement will be in November. Peter felt that the judging day went well and that if the park is not awarded a Green Flag, a detailed report is produced as to the reasons why.

Graffiti

In the last meeting Walter from the Smithy Cottage, had raised his concerns about the graffiti on the skatepark. Peter and Dave Burrows had done a site visit and had a look at the graffiti which they felt wasn't too bad at present. Peter had contacted Andrea Nyland from the Youth Service about maybe getting a graffiti artist to do some artwork at the skating area with young people. Andrea agreed that it would be a good idea and would try to arrange something and would get back in touch with Peter after her holidays. Peter had not heard from Andrea yet.

Peter mentioned that there had been graffiti on the bowls pavilion roof. He had contacted the Hygiene Action Team and they have agreed to sort it out.

Cenotaph Flower Beds

In the last meeting Chris Huxley raised the ongoing problem of youths walking through the cenotaph to get to the skating area, and also dog faeces in the shrub/flower display. He had asked if any thoughts have been given to creating a raised retaining wall or fence to protect the area. There had been some discussion and it was agreed that some type of low rail would be a good idea.

Action: Peter will look into costs for a low rail.

Action: Dave Burrows will inform the local councillors about this proposed action.

Picnic Tables

Dave Burrows was looking into the probation service building and installing some picnic benches. will bring some photographs of tables and costs. It is thought that the best place for the picnic table would be between the bowling green and the toddlers play area.

Action: Dave Burrows to bring some photos and costs to the next meeting.

Greggs

There have been a lot of problems relating to litter in the park, in particular from Greggs' customers. Peter had drafted a letter to Greggs from the Friends about the litter problem and whether they can help by providing funding for more litter bins in the park. It was agreed that any support from Greggs would be acknowledged on the noticeboard.

Action: Peter to send letter to Greggs on behalf of group.

Peter also asked Jane Christie from the Ridge Danvers College, they would be able to provide any funding for bins as a lot of litter is also generated by students from the college.

Action: Jane will report this back to her manager and feed back at next meeting.

Carnival/Bi-Centenary

Despite the weather being bad and the display boards falling over, the day on the whole was a success. Mark was impressed with the display boards and felt that they were a good advertisement of the park. Jane asked the group how often publicity material such as newsletters and leaflets were given out. Peter said that the group had produced one newsletter and were hoping to get another one out very soon.

Chris A had noticed that on carnival day, the toilets are closed at 4.00pm and asked why this was the case. Peter Bardsley responded by saying that it had been done that way for several years because that's when the staff finished. Chris Armitth thought that it was strange that on a summer evening when the park is being used, that the toilets are shut at 4.00p.m. It was thought that outside contractors maintain the toilets and that's where the problem lies. Bill Arden said that the bowls team used to have a key but it was taken off them.

Bill asked about the gap in the hedge on Station Road and that a car had driven onto the park through the gap, on carnival day for the car boot sale on the car park. There were concerns about safety.

Action: Peter will make Adrian aware of this.

Bill asked about the orange fencing that was near the wildflower area. Peter thought it was there because contractors had been working there and wanted to make sure people didn't walk over there.

Currently the boundaries are looking good and there are plans to continue planting in the area behind the library.

Peter mentioned about dog bins and suggested that one be located down by the corner near the entrance to the canal.

Peter informed the group that sadly Jim had passed away. Peter said that he had worked hard in the park for many years and would be remembered for a long time. Peter said that there were no plans as yet for the house, and there was some discussion as to what could happen to the house.

4. Any Other Business

Mark thought that it would be a good idea to organise another task day. Michaela asked about the stone steps by the Jolly Sailor. Peter said that this was not really in the remit of the park group but agreed that work was needed and would contact Streetscene.

Action: Peter to find out whom to contact in Streetscene.

Another possibility for the task day would be to install the picnic benches when they were purchased. This will be looked into further and a date will be set for the task day once it has been determined whether probationary services can provide the picnic benches.

Michaela asked about the Living Spaces application and Sally informed the group that the group is still waiting to hear from Living Spaces.

Sally asked the group where they would like the notice board to be placed.

Action: Peter will check with Adrian and let Sally know with the most likely site being to the side of the carved bench at the entrance to the park.

Sally also informed the group about the Middlewood Way Conservation days that will be held on the last Saturday of every month for the next three months. Peter Bardsley requested that he be sent paper copies to display. Jane Christie and Mark Whittaker both requested electronic copies of the poster to be e-mailed to them.

Sally also reported on the improvements to the pathways and lighting which is proposed for Autumn time.

Date for the next meeting is Monday 23rd August 2004 at 6.30p.m at Marple Library.