

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Committee Meeting

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2005

**Minutes**

**Present:** Peter Clarke (chairman), Mark Whittaker, Jay Havoleana, Rod Martin, Dorothy Martin, Chris Armitt, Peter Bardsley, Bob Wilson, Bill Arden, David Burrows, Micaela Wood, Councillor Andrew Bispham, and Adrian Ellis.

**Apologies:** Kay Blair,

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were propose as correct by Mark Whittaker and seconded by Peter Bardsley.

**2. Matters Arising**

**Park Cottage**

Rod and Dorothy Martin were introduced to the Friends of the park by Peter Clarke. The reason for there attendance this evening was to discuss the letter that they had sent to Councillor Pam King and Councillor Martin Candler over the use and neglect of the cottage in Marple memorial Park.

They were concerned as they are the nearest neighbours to the property as to the groups and the council's intentions towards the property as they have some reservations if the property were to be turned into a tea rooms or small café.

Both Dorothy and Ron were concerned that this type of enterprise and location would attract vandalism as they experience this on a regular basis being in such close proximity to the park.

Bob Wilson explained that their were other examples of café in parks such as Etherow, Bramhall and Bruntwood Parks these experienced little or no more vandalism than parks which did not contain these facilities.

Dave Burrows explained that at this present time quotes were being drawn up to bring the property up to a basic standard and as of yet no decision as to the future use of the parks cottage had been decided.

Peter Clarke told both Dorothy And Rod that if they experienced trouble through vandalism that they should report the matter to the police and ask for a crime number so that the incident would be logged.

## **Coronation Tree**

Peter explained that at the last meeting the group had discussed the purchase of a bench from e-bay, after a discussion with the owner this turned out to be of no use.

In the mean time Peter spoke with the owner of IRONWOOD who has been looking for a project to raise his profile with in the local community of Marple. He will be happy to make and install a bench around the oak tree for £500.

Mark Whittaker applied to the community development grant for this money and heard this week that the grant had been successful.

Dave Burrows requested that before the bench was installed that Jim McGarry the tree officer for the area look at the plans for installing the bench so that no damage will befall the Oak tree.

## **Graffiti Art Scheme**

Peter Clarke is no further on with this project than at the last meeting.

## **Jim Heald Bench**

Mark and Peter were delighted to be contacted recently by Alasdair Kirk, a direct descendant of the Carver family who owned the Hollins Mill and donated the land for Memorial Park in 1922. Alasdair, the great great grandson of John Carver, was pleased to discover that the park is still highly valued by the people of Marple and has sent the Friends a cheque for £200 from The Kirk Trust.

This generous contribution will more than cover the shortfall against the cost of Jim's bench and, perhaps even more importantly, it establishes a fitting link back to the Carver family in commemorating Jim's 45 years of service in the park.

The bench was ordered in August and should arrive at the end of September. Jim's family would like the bench installed between the two play areas.

### **Bird and Bat Boxes**

Michaela wood brought examples of bird boxes and bird feeders the group liked the designs but thought that the bird feeders may be too much trouble at the present time. It was decided to purchase 6 tit boxes 6 sparrow boxes and 6 bat boxes.

### **Green Fag and Play area**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September the new play area was officially opened and the Green Flag for 2005-2006 was officially raised by the mayor of Stockport. There was a good turn out and Peter thanked all who attended and the hard work and efforts of the parks team during the year.

### **Merchant Navy day**

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September a ceremony was held in the park to commemorate all the merchant navy men who had lost there lives during conflicts at sea. The ceremony was well attended by the Major and the local M.P. Andrew Stunell. The ceremony involved the raising of the Red Ensign flag, the flag of the merchant navy, by Captain Ken Owen F.R.I.N. //M.N.I.

### **Flag Pole**

Dave Burrows has now received a quote for the installation of a new flag pole with internal mechanism and the removal of the old flag pole. The new pole will cost £725 and the removal of the old flag pole will cost £480.

It was suggested that other sources be sort for the removal the old flag pole as a new place should be found for the new pole away from the Horse Chestnut tree. Mark though that the new flag pole should be sited about 20 ft. to the right of the old one in front of the war Memorial at the end of the path.

It was agreed that the friends would contribute some money towards the cost of a new flag pole.

### **Park Report**

The parks staff have been preparing the park for the two recent events in the park along with the usual grounds maintenance duties such as littering, hoeing and weeding, grass cutting and bowling green maintenance. The new play area is being well used and one piece of equipment is used above all. The extra

people with in the park are causing an increase in litter which does have a knock on effect with other jobs.

The Health walks are still continuing every Monday morning.

The signs for the play area have now been installed.

### **Any Other Business**

- **Newsletter**

Its time again to think about the friend's newsletter and it would be nice for it to be produced before Christmas. If everyone could think about article or have any photos please bring ideas to next meeting.

- **Play Area**

Dave Burrows is to check with Gareth Davies of Playground maintenance whether the snag list for the play area has been completed.

- **Stockport Express**

Jay was concerned over a letter which appeared in the Stockport Express about all the money spent on Marple Memorial Park. The person who wrote the letter thought that the money was just given to the park.

Peter though that it would be a good idea if Jay wrote an article in the news letter to explain all the hard work that had gone into the park and how the funding for the play area had been given.

- **Lighting**

The lights in the park are still not on and the old lights have still not been removed. Dave Burrows will check with Street lighting as to a date when this will be rectified.

1. **Date and Time of Next Meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30 p.m. at Marple library**