

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2008  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Dave Burrows, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Adrian Ellis, Patrick O’Herlihy.

**2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed.

**3.0 Matters Arising.**

**3.1 BBC Breathing Places Reading Area**

**Sculpture**

The sculpture was installed free of charge by Myers Tree Care Ltd on Thursday 7 August and the group recorded their appreciation of this generous support from David Myers.

Linda Paton has confirmed that she will now be organising a launch of the Breathing Place with an event and the press will be invited.

Andrew Frost’s invoice for £1,800 has been received and a cheque in payment was signed at the meeting.

**Interpretation**

As Jay did not attend this will carry over to the next meeting.

**Planting of Wildflowers (BBC “Do One Thing” Event)**

The application was sent off last month but nothing has arrived. Mark got in touch with the BBC Learning Project Manager on Friday and it was confirmed that a pack would be sent out within the next week or so.  
*(Post Meeting Note: The pack has now been received.)*

The date of the event was confirmed as the 25 October task day and Mark will ensure that Jacky Budd is aware of when the wildflowers will be needed.

**Outstanding Expenditure**

With the sculpture payment of £1,800 now being processed the only other outstanding items on the project are:

£580 for the Wildflowers.  
£1,000 for the Interpretation.

The project deadline for completion has been extended twice and is now December 2008, which means that we need to start making progress on the interpretation soon to ensure we can comfortably achieve this.

### **3.2 Basketball Court Fence**

As recorded last month, the provisional price is £4,318 for the fence only. This does not include the chicane / steps arrangement that will be needed to provide good access to the teen shelter area whilst preventing the basketballs from escaping too easily.

Rebecca was due to meet with a contractor on site last week to discuss the chicane and steps and to seek a firm price for the work. No details have been received yet.

We are also awaiting Rebecca's advice on obtaining Marple Area Committee approval for the commuted sum of £3,752 to be spent on this project.

Once the costs and availability of funding are clear we will be able to consider how to overcome any shortfall. We might be able to find a way to do all the work at once or it may prove necessary to construct the fence with an opening and tackle the chicane and steps at a later date.

### **3.3 Beech Tree Sculpture**

The Parks Team installed the five acorn and beechnut ground sculptures around the main sculpture on Thursday 7 August. The group thanked the team for getting this done and for making a very good job of it too.

The ground sculptures now need to be cleaned and oiled to match the main sculpture. Bob can do this or it can be done on a task day.

Andrew Frost's latest promise for delivery of the replacement apple sculpture is next week. Once received the apple and pear can be installed in the infants play area by the Parks Team.

At the last task day the main sculpture was sanded and treated with anti-fungicide before being re-oiled with decking oil. This appears to have been successful in subduing the fungus but the situation will need to be monitored over time and further work may become necessary.

### **3.4 Infants Play Area**

The new graphics are being cut in Denmark because they are specials. The existing boat graphic and the circles will remain but the other graphics will be replaced. There is no news on when these will be received at present.

Andrew Frost has confirmed that he will produce a new sign for the infants play area by way of a "thank you" to the group for agreeing to the Breathing Places sculpture being displayed at the Tatton Show. It is expected to arrive with the replacement apple and Mark will maintain a dialog with Andrew until both items are received.

### **3.5 Boules Court.**

#### **Court Construction**

The construction of the court is now completed, however, Mark is concerned that the surface is too soft and loose and needs to be compacted. He has asked Rebecca to look into whether the contractor ought to have done this. If it was not in their scope of work Rebecca will see if there is a low cost way of getting it done. Alternatively we may have to hire a compactor and do it ourselves.

This was discussed further during a site visit with mixed opinions about whether it was necessary to compact the surface. It was agreed that Bob would use his apprentices to rake over the surface before making a final decision. Mark will also seek the opinion of Craig Wright, who has his own court and will hopefully be able to offer guidance.

#### **Commemorative Seating**

Alan Posthill, Marple Civic Society's Chairman, has confirmed that the Society would like to donate £750 to cover the cost of a commemorative seat. Mark has also received two reasonably firm proposals from private individuals to purchase memorial seats and another individual has provisionally offered to donate £250 towards the project.

Mark has asked Rebecca if there are any other suppliers of seats and benches that can be considered in addition to David Ogilvie Ltd, which is understood to be the council's only supplier of choice.

Adrian has advised that the cost for the Parks Team to install the benches would be around £110 each including materials. This is an improvement on the price quoted by David Ogilvie Ltd.

As Patrick is away on holiday there is no news on how he has fared in seeking funds from the Marple Business Forum, The Rotary, Senior Citizens and the District Partnership. This can be firmed up he is back.

#### **Boules for "Hire"**

The idea of making a set of Boules available for users to hire was discussed and it was agreed to try and purchase one or two sets that could be loaned out by Bob free of charge. A deposit covering the value of the equipment would have to be taken to ensure their return or replacement. Mark will see if sets can be purchased for around £10 or under, which would be a reasonable deposit to take.

#### **Interpretation**

It was proposed to install an interpretation board of similar design to the existing ones that would explain the history of Pétanque, the rules of the game and how the court was funded. It would also explain about the availability of the Boules from Bob. This proposal was agreed but funding will need to be found before it can proceed.

### **Boules Tournament**

Proposals to hold a Boules Tournament on the afternoon of the next task day on Saturday 30 August were confirmed and it was agreed to commence this at 1pm. A normal task day will also be held between 10am and 1pm.

Mark enquired if it was acceptable for him to bring a gas-powered barbeque into the park. Dave was uncertain about this and will consult with the council's Safety Officer. If the response is negative participants will have to bring sandwiches / snacks for their lunch.

Mark will distribute a press release and email about the event and put posters in the notice boards. It is hoped that this will be a good photo opportunity for the press to attend.

It is hoped that members of the Parks and Recreation Team who usually support the task days will wish to attend too.

### **3.6 War Memorial**

Peter Clarke (as the local War Memorial Trust representative) has confirmed that neither the War Memorial nor the Bowling Shelter is listed. However, Peter has advised that he will provide the group with the necessary paperwork to request listing of the structures.

Proposals to clean the War Memorial during the next task day were discussed, followed by a site visit to consider this more carefully. Dave concluded that he was not happy for the group to carry out this task and he will obtain costs from a contractor instead. It was noted that ideally it should be cleaned before the IMND Service on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

There is no news from Jacky Budd regarding the scheme for the War Memorial flowerbeds so Bob will chase this up with her. Micaela asked if it was possible for the scheme to include the planting of Poppies and Bob will also discuss this with Jacky.

### **3.6 Task Days**

#### **Last Day – 26 July**

As described earlier, the tree sculpture was sanded and re-oiled. Also flowerbeds were weeded and the YOT were in attendance again.

#### **Next Task Day – 30 August**

Normal task day 10am to 1pm, followed by Boules Tournament.

Possible tasks include treating the ground sculptures.

Mark will submit the list of registrations for free parking and send out the email notification of the task day event.

### **3.7 Bird Survey**

This item has been added to the agenda in preparation for feedback from Ian Hilton's monthly bird survey, although there is no news to report at this stage.

### **3.8 Gap in fence near Garth Road**

Adrian has investigated the gap in the fence and has concluded that it should be repaired with extra posts and stronger wire, rather than a permanent opening being constructed. Additional hornbeam can be planted and these will be allowed to become established by keeping on top of maintenance should the fence be damaged again. The group agreed that this was the best solution.

### **3.9 Park Cottage**

No new information.

### **4.0 Status of Funds**

Income since last month is a total of £68.90 interest from March and June. Expenditure was £31.49 on the Breathing Places books. Payments of £1,800 for the new sculpture and £2,869 for the Boules Court will see the bank balance reduce significantly during the next month or so.

|                          |        |        |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| Current bank balance:    | £7,314 |        |
| <b>Committed Funds:</b>  | £6,710 |        |
| Breathing Places         |        | £3,788 |
| Boules Court             |        | £2,869 |
| Sundial & Shuttle panels |        | £53    |
| Working balance:         | £604   |        |

### **4.1 Fundraising Activities**

#### **Food Festival – 20 September**

It is proposed to hold a tombola at the Festival. Confirmation of the stall is still awaited from Craig Wright but it is not expected to be a problem.

Mark will produce a new letter for Micaela to use to try and drum up support from local shops and businesses again. It was agreed that the basketball fence would be the designated cause for the funds raised.

#### **Christmas Cracker – 6 December**

This is the next opportunity for fund-raising. Mark has confirmed to the organisers that we would like to attend.

#### **Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights - 17 December 2008 & 7 January 2009**

These dates are now confirmed.

### **5.0 Monthly Park Report**

Bob advised that ground maintenance was generally ongoing and a second special needs "apprentice" will be joining him in the near future.

The doors to the Bowling Green building have recently been subject to an attempted break in. They have been repaired but not particularly well and Bob is concerned that they will be attacked again. Dave will call Tony Donovan about this tomorrow to discuss a better solution.

Bob advised that a lady from a wildflower interest group was photographing specimens in the park recently and she has told him that from September the group will begin monitoring the park over a whole year to study the full cycle of wildflowers growing there.

Bob would like to create a wildflower display on the edge of the Breathing Places area similar to the one at Torkington Park. This would involve removing the turf, rotavating the soil and planting wildflower seeds in early spring. A site visit was held to discuss this and it was agreed that a strip along the front of the woodland behind Jim Heald's bench and also the space immediately to the left of the path to the reading area would be suitable. Bob will ask Jacky Budd to ascertain the costs for doing this.

## **6.0 Any Other Business**

### **6.1 Coronation Bench**

Wayne Chaisty has provided a price of £45 for repair the Coronation Bench but he will need access to power for his welding machine.  
*(Post Meeting Note: Dave has suggested that if Wayne hires a suitable generator he will pay the hire charges – Mark has passed this on to Wayne and his response is awaited.)*

### **6.2 Letter to Wyevale Garden Centre**

Carried over to next month as Jay was hoping to progress this.

### **6.3 Brightening up of Bowling Green Building**

Micaela suggested that the Bowling Green Building could do with brightening up, perhaps with some planters or tubs. The council would be able to provide bedding plant so these proposals should be discussed and agreed with users of the building.

## **7.0 Date of next Meeting**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at 6pm in Marple Library.**

### **List of reminders:**

Outdoor Fitness Equipment (sources of funding).  
Lock 17 plaque / raise stonework in September.  
Park leaflet update.