

Friends of Marple Memorial Park (AGM)
Monday 8th August 2011
Marple Library

Present: Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Patrick O’Herlihy, Joyce Reed,
Cllr Andrew Bispham, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Improvements to the Park Entrance

Drainage Improvements

Awaiting news about funding availability from Ian Warmesley.

(Post meeting note: Adrian has advised that further funding is being requested to make repairs to the entrance road into the park).

3.2 Ornamental Flowerbeds

Funding Progress

Formal response regarding the outcome of the application to Stockport Homes is awaited. *(Post meeting note: SH have now advised that customers who attended the Area Forum meetings have agreed to our request for £1,000 towards the flower beds and have asked for payment information. This was sent on 15 August 2011.)*

3.3 Park Benches

Preservatives and Sanding Materials

Adrian was not able to attend the meeting because he is unwell, so it is not know if he has managed to order wood preserver and rolls of 60 and 80 grade sanding materials for the group to use when refurbishing benches.

The option of buying sanding sheets to fit certain models of sander was discussed but it was agreed we should proceed with the rolls of sanding materials previously agreed.

Cllr. Bispham advised that Crown Decorating Supplies is a good source for quality DIY materials and Mark will pass this information onto Adrian.

Daytime Visits by David Lewis Centre Task Group

Unfortunately Terry’s visit with his team has been delayed due to holidays and illness but he hopes to bring them to the park to tackle the bench near to the Co-Op within the next fortnight to three weeks. Terry has estimated the materials to cost no more than £50 for this bench.

Replacement of bench near Junior Play Area (No. 17 on survey)

The quotation from Broxap has been received and passed on to the family. They have sent a cheque for the sum of £660 to cover it and Jonathan has placed an ordered with Broxap on our behalf on Friday 5 August. *(Post meeting note: The proof for the commemorative plaque has been received from Broxap and approved by the family. Also, Adrian has advised that for safety reasons he would prefer the Area Team to remove the existing bench.)*

Refurbishment of another bench (No. 16 on survey)

The family wishing to refurbish this bench have ordered the plaque themselves. When Terry has confirmed the cost of materials and labour for refurbishing the bench Mark will advise them and ask for payment if they wish to proceed. *(Post meeting note: Terry has advised that the costs will be £250 and Mark has passed this on.)*

3.4 Picnic Benches

Terry advised that the picnic bench was now ready for delivery. He will check when he can borrow a Luton van to enable him to bring it to Marple and Mark will then arrange a meeting with Gareth and Jonathan. *(Post meeting note: A meeting has been arranged with them for Friday afternoon, 19th August.)*

3.5 Treatment of Sculptures and Wooden Features

As Adrian was not able to attend the meeting progress on reinstallation of the ground sculpture is not clear. *(Post meeting note: Adrian has advised that he has started on this but has still to secure the metal rod.)*

Cleaning / painting of the Infants Play Area fences was discussed further and it is hoped to make some progress on this during the next task day.

Adrian has still to investigate if the council would be able to purchase the paint if the group provide the labour to do the work.

3.6 Painting of Bowling Green Buildings

The cracks in the doors that were reacting to the paint have now been filled and a third coat of black paint applied over this. The results have been satisfactory and it was agreed that this task is now complete.

3.7 Bowling Green Boards

With both Adrian and Bob unable to attend, there was no news on this item.

(Post meeting note: Adrian has advised that the bowling green at Torkington Park was boarded with wood by the Area Team at a cost of £500. Some boards have been located in Bob's tool room but a clear-out is needed to ascertain exactly how many there are and if there are any posts available.)

3.8 Task Days

Previous Task Day – 30 July 2011

A number of plants donated by Les and Jean White were planted in the War Memorial Rockery and Parsley and Strawberries provided by them were also planted in the Rainbows and Beavers beds. A huge amount of couch grass was also removed from the ornamental beds.

Next Task Day – 27 August 2011

Painting of the Coronation bench, and making progress on the Infants Play Area fencing are both possible tasks with further work to flower and shrub beds also likely.

Mark will send out the parking request for specified vehicles and the task day email.

3.9 Vision of Marple

Skate Park

A display about the potential skate park improvements prepared by Marple Hall pupils during Enrichment Week is currently being exhibited in the library to the rear of the machines for checking books in and out.

Mark and Graham Clarke of Marple Civic Society have recently attended a Sport England Workshop for Community Groups in Bolton about the new "Inspired Funding" scheme that is tied in with next year's Olympics. This seems an idea source of funding for the skate park except that only the landowner or leaseholder can apply it for. If a community group applies no match funding is required but if a Local Authority does it then £ for £ match funding is necessary.

Richard Booker has also attended the Workshop version for Local Authorities and it is proposed to meet with him and Tim Boylan again soon to discuss the next steps that should be taken to try to progress this project.

Cllr. Bispham advised that he had some information about funding for projects from the Royal Bank of Scotland that may be suitable and he will pass the details on.

3.10 Toilets in the Park

At the last meeting on Friday 15 July the council had reviewed the ideas and suggestions discussed at the previous meeting and had made progress by identifying a solution to the cleaning of the toilets on weekdays that will utilise the same resources that service the Senior Citizens Hall, Library and Council Offices toilets.

It was also agreed that the Veterans Bowling Club will have a key to the toilets and shall take responsibility for opening and closing them on Wednesday evenings in the summer when they hold their matches.

Opening and closing of the toilets during weekdays is currently being discussed internally within the council. If this can be concluded successfully it will secure use of the toilets from Monday to Friday each week. Once weekdays are secured the next target would be to find ways to deal with the weekends.

The next meeting with Cllr Alexander, Council Officers and Community Group representatives is due to take place on Friday 16 September 2011. In the meantime the toilets will continue to be cleaned, opened and closed under the existing arrangements until the end of September.

3.11 Park Cottage

Mark visited the cottage with Sue Emery during the last task day and the Bands are making good progress with the work to lower the ceiling and create extra loft-space for storage of music and instruments.

3.12 Marple Festival

Food and Drink Day

Micaela has made good progress with local shops and businesses on her quest for tombola prizes and they are showing great support for what we do, as always.

Micaela is also encouraging businesses to provide copies of their business cards, flyers and menus etc. for us to display so that visitors to the festival know who our sponsors are. She will also compile a full list of donors so that they can be acknowledged on our web site.

Cllr. Bispham expressed interest in contributing prizes himself and will liaise with Micaela on this.

Fund Raising Opportunity

There has been no further contact from the Cricket Club regarding the possibility of raising funds for the park by helping to clear up after their festival events. It was felt that there was now insufficient time left to get organised or to gain the necessary commitment from volunteers. It was therefore agreed to decline the opportunity.

3.13 French Boules Tournament

Permission for the event has been granted by SMBC and the Event Checklist has been submitted. Mark will now endeavour to firm up the groups/teams attending and finalise arrangements.

The start was confirmed as 12.30pm on Sunday 28 August. Mark will provide 3 gazebos and Terry 3 tables. Participants will bring their own food and drink and it will be a good idea to bring extra chairs.

Cllr. Bispham expressed interest in possibly joining in with a Councillor Team and will speak to Craig Wright, who may already be participating as part of the Locks Society.

3.14 Planting of Fruit Trees

It is not know if Adrian has spoken to Anthony Crooks, manager of the Arboricultural Dept. about the Community Orchard scheme and Mark will ask him for an update.

(Post meeting note: Anthony has advised that the council has already committed to a three-year planting programme that ends next year. They cannot commit to the long-term maintenance of any further trees, as they do not know what council funding will be available. In view of this and the general lack of enthusiasm from the group Mark will advise MESS that we will decline to take up their offer of help with this.)

4.0 Funding

Status of Funds

Current bank balance is £3,638. With £1,537 committed for plants and shrubs and £660 for the new bench we have a working balance of £1,441.

Income since the last meeting is £660 for the being provided by a local family. There has been no expenditure in the period.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 National Gardening Week

Micaela advised that National Gardening Week starts on 13 March next year and this would be a good opportunity to publicise the task days and the group's activities.

5.2 Wildflowers for Breathing Places Area

Joyce suggested a possible project to enhance the Breathing Places area behind the library would be to encourage local schools to grow wildflower plugs starting in early spring for planting in the area around May. This would also be a good way to involve children in the park. It was agreed that this was a good idea and it would be worth contacting local schools to see if they would like to be involved.

5.3 Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Micaela would still like to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year some how and this needs further thought for a suitable project or event.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 12 September at 6pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates in 2011:

12 September
10 October
14 November
12 December