

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 12th August 2013
Marple Library**

Present: Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Micaela Wood, Joyce Reed, Patrick O’Herlihy, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Anne Frazer.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Diamond Jubilee Project

Display Panel

Jonathan Long placed an order for a replacement clamp frame at a cost of £95+VAT and will recover the money from NPS, whose contractor did the damage. The new frame was delivered early last week and fitted on Thursday 8 August.

Jonathan will also recover the £11.96 cost of postage to return the broken frame to Shelley Signs so that they could use it as a template to make sure the holes were in the right place to fit the existing main frame. We should receive an invoice for the original display panel cost of £760 less the postage (£748.04) in the near future.

There are still small flecks of paint on the display board where the contractor painting the library didn’t cover it. Bob will see if he can get it off with his anti-graffiti kit.

Future Planting

Gill has ordered a “Monarda Mix” of 24 plants from Express Readers Offers for £18 and a larger order of £75 from Van Meuwen comprising 12 x 12 varieties of Perennial plugs, 100 mixed daffodil bulbs, 400 Anemone “Union Jack Blend” bulbs, 32 Alliums “Big Impact mix” bulbs, 30 English Bluebell bulbs, 24 Stocks “Brompton” plugs and 100 “Majestic Mix Tulip bulbs.

This will reduce our funds reserved for planting from £632 to £539.

The plan is to widen the borders on the pathway to the Breathing Places area to take some of the Polys from the Jubilee bed and transplant others elsewhere in the park but leaving any red, white or blue ones to be part of the longer-term display. The bulbs will be planted first and Perennials after. We can make a start at the next task day with further details to be agreed once the new plants and bulbs are available.

3.2 Park Benches

Picnic Benches on the Recreation Ground

Terry plans to fit the second refurbished plaque on Saturday (*PMN: now done*).

The David Lewis Centre lost the first cheque for £250 to cover supply of materials. They have confirmed in writing, cheque has been cancelled and a replacement issued.

Karcher cleaned the stone water fountain for us during their Clean-Up Day.

Work funded by Marple Area Committee for the Recreation Ground is now completed.

Anthony Crook, the council's Senior Arboriculture and Habitat Officer, has made positive comments about the work that we've done at the Recreation Ground.

Refurbishment / replacement of benches

Jim Heald's bench was jet-washed by Karcher and has since been sanded and retreated by Patrick and Mark. Patrick and Mick painted the metal work with Hammerite during the last task day and the bench is now looking fantastic.

The plan is to tackle the Boules Court benches next. Patrick has sourced a non-toxic water-based paint stripper and although there was some scepticism about how good this would be, it was agreed it was worth purchasing a tub for around £10 to try.

There has been no word from Gladys Romm's family about the new plaque so Mark will chase them up to see if they still plan to go ahead with it.

The Ian Rice bench and the Alan Procter seat still need to be tackled. The picnic bench in the play area needs treating and the two outside need sanding and treating too.

The Coronation Bench needs to be sanded and repainted.

3.3 Karcher Equipment

The Karcher Clean-Up prizes comprising a K4 Jet Wash, a Steam Cleaner and a Window Vac have all now been received. We need to decide what to do with the Aldi Jet Wash that was purchased just before winning the completion.

3.4 Infants Play Area Fence

Painting of the Infants Play Area fence will be continued when the weather is suitable.

3.5 Treatment of Sculptures

Sculptures have all been retreated but Midnight the Owl sculpture also needs to be treated for woodworm, which has become apparent recently. Mark has ordered a 5lt tin of Cuprinol 5 Star Wood Treatment at a cost of £44 for this purpose.

3.6 Skate Park

The minutes of the last skate park meeting were reviewed:

Fund Raising Status

- The Macnair Trust – response awaited (*PMN: have declined to contribute.*)
- The Vernon BS – awaiting outcome (*PMN: we did not make final selection.*)
- All Saints' Church – ongoing – Craig hopes to arrange a contribution.
- House on the Hill – awaiting contact from them.
- Stockport Hydro – awaiting response. (*PMN: don't have funds available yet.*)

Following changes in officers at Marple Business Forum the MBF/Rotary International proposal is unlikely to go ahead. It's hoped that the MBF / Rotary Christmas Float opportunity will still be possible and Mark will try to get contacts for this. Also, when new MBF officers are confirmed Mark will follow-up our earlier request for support.

£196 was raised on Carnival Day, plus £175 poster sponsorship and £160 trophy sponsorship. Expenditure was £1,700 on Team Extreme, £150 on trophies and prizes plus £60 on promotional t-shirts – a total spend of £1,909.

The local NatWest Branch Manager Andy Vickerstaff helped out selling raffle tickets on Carnival Day and the bank has now donated £250 of match funding, which is a fantastic contribution. The local RBS branch has not replied to our letter.

Woodstock Pizza has donated £26.50 from their sales on Carnival Day.

Jason Saenz gave a £25 donation from his start-up business Recon-Cycle Repairs and Sales (Marple) and pledged on-going support.

Graham Clarke has spoken to the Co-Op Manager Peter Dewsnap who has advised that we should make a Co-Op Community Fund application for a contribution towards match funding. It was agreed that it would be better if we could get match funding rather than the event funding that we have already applied for, so Mark will endeavour to submit a revised application. *(Post Meeting Note: the event funding application has been withdrawn and a match funding one prepared. The Co-Op has revised the on-line application process and currently there is a fault preventing submissions. Hopefully this will be resolved soon, allowing submission to be made. If it is accepted the Co-Op committee will consider the application in October).*

Total funding raised (9 August) is £7,779 with expenditure of £1,909 leaving a balance of £5,870 match funding against the target of £20,000. £4,870 is banked with £1,000 awarded by Marple Carnival Committee to be received in October 2013.

The need for an independent contribution of 10% (approx £10,000) to the Veolia Trust in the event of a successful grant bid has been highlighted to Marple Area Committee with a request that they take this into account when allocating current and future commuted sums eligible for use in Marple Memorial Park.

Marple 10k Trail Run

The next big fund-raising opportunity is the Marple Firefighters' 10k Trail Run on 7 September 2013. The Firefighters will donate 20% of proceeds to the skate park fund but there is also the opportunity for people to take part and raise sponsorship for the skate park too. Entry costs £12.50 and entry forms and sponsorship forms are available on the Friends of the Park web site and the Marple 10k site.

Stockport Homes are really getting behind this event and they plan to field around 8 people running for the skate park. They will also be organising a tombola with support from staff not able to run. Terry agreed that his tombola drum could be used.

We will have our gazebos and displays at the event finish to promote the project and will share them with Stockport Homes. Anyone happy to help will be welcome but it was acknowledged that it is Food and Drink Day the following week and Mark will try to get the skaters to help at the 10k.

Easyfundraising.co.uk – On-line Fundraising

Mark advised that Friends of the Park have been accepted by easyfundraising.co.uk and people can now raise funds for the skate park when they shop or search on-line:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/marplememorialpark>

Promotional Videos

Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College students and staff have completed the first cut of the promotional video that they filmed on Carnival Day. Unfortunately they had problems with the quality of sound recording but have managed to overcome this by using text, which has proved to be quite effective.

The first cut of the video is now on-line: <http://youtu.be/Ceml3O6i-s>

Generally the developments that we would like to incorporate are more talking heads with captions - there are quite a lot more available we think and these can be used to build our message that the skate park needs to be improved in a more diverse way - more of the local users taking part (if we can obtain consents) - more pauses with stats and comment bullet points - screenshots from Facebook and generally a smoother telling of the story from start to finish and with less emphasis on Team Extreme and more on the Friends of the Park, the Skater Group and our objectives.

The Stockport College students' video is currently delayed due to availability of staff to support the editing but hopefully they will be able to provide one in due course too.

Other Items

As suggested by PC Andy Potter at the Carnival, Mark has written to Inspector Stephen Palmer about possible funding / support on 29 July 2013.

Lewis will get in touch with All Things Nice about possible support.

Mark will follow-up with Anne to see if Pure Radio can give support in any way.

Mark will respond to Ronit Bowman and ask if there is any way that she can help.

3.7 Food and Drink Festival 14 September

Micaela has distributed the letter requesting tombola prizes from local shops and businesses and she feels that the response is going well.

Generally everything is expected to be on the same lines as last year with a tombola, displays promoting the skate park project and a "guess the sweets" competition.

Micaela asked if we could have a better stall location this year – the waste bin was inside our gazebo last year. Patrick will get in touch with Frank Blanchard about this.

Gill has found a new supplier willing to donate sweets for the competition. Mark will check if the last winner is willing to return the jar or if a new one is needed.

Volunteers will be needed to help on the day (which is already allocated as a task day) and final details can be confirmed at the next meeting on 9 September.

3.8 World War I Centenary Commemorations

War Memorial "Rose Wall" Hedge

The roses planted earlier this year are mostly doing well. Replacements for 15 of them that did not grow have been arranged for delivery from the supplier in November.

SMBC has a small budget for this kind of project and they are considering giving a grant to cover our £200 budget currently allocated for this.

The temporary protective barrier will be removed before the Remembrance Service.

Commemorative Iron Railings

Three prices and designs for the commemorative railings have been obtained and attendees of the Council's 2014 Meeting have expressed a strong preference for the design by Blacksmith Luke Lister. SMBC have agreed to help with the preparation of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant application for this project.

A lengthy discussion took place about the scheme and after some debate it was concluded to be an appropriate way to commemorate the centenaries. However, it was agreed that the helmets depicted on the WWII figures currently based on the American style must be changed to British.

Mark will firm up details with Luke Lister and start the funding application process.

Planting of Poppies throughout Stockport Parks

One of the other projects suggested at the 2014 Meetings is the planting of wild poppy seeds and Oriental poppies in as many parks as possible. Our interest in taking part in this if it goes ahead has been registered with the organisers.

3.9 Park Cottage

Work on the extension to the cottage is expected to start in the near future.

3.10 Task Days

Last Task Days – 27, 29 June, 13 and 27 July

Four task days have been held since the last meeting, including the Karcher Clean-Up Day held on Thursday 27 June, when Karcher brought a large team to the park and cleaned around the library, the war memorial, the front of the council offices, the infants play area, the Senior Citizens' back yard and the stone fountain on the Recreation Ground. Activities on normal task days included work to the infants play area, war memorial and ornamental flower beds, shrub beds plus maintenance and refurbishment of benches and sculptures.

Marple Allotment Association have continued to attend to their own plot too.

Nest Task Days - Saturday 17 and 31 August

Next normal task days are Saturday 17 and 31 August but we also have a need for volunteers at the Marple 10k and Food and Drink Festival on 7 and 14 September.

Mark will send out parking requests and task day emails.

Remaining Task Day Dates for 2013

17 & 31 August; 14 & 28 September; 26 October; 30 November; 28 December 2013.

3.11 Risk Assessments / Task Day Registration

Task Days up to 28 September are registered on the Council web site. Task Days until the end of the year need to be added.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Balance on last statement for 22 July 2013 was £8,973.83 but this excludes much of the expenditure detailed below (current balance is approximately £6,908).

Income since last meeting includes £160 Trophy Sponsorship, £170 Poster Sponsorship, £196 raised on Carnival Day, £26.50 from Woodstock Pizza, £30.91 Gift-Aid from localgiving.com, £25 donation from Mr & Mrs Moores, £250 from NatWest Bank match-funding and £25 donated by Recon Cycle Repairs.

Expenditure since last meeting is £60 on Skate Park t-shirts, £250 David Lewis Centre expenses, £1,700 on Team Extreme, £17.96 on Chicken Pellet Fertilizer and £11.96 to return the broken display frame to Shelley Signs.

Expenses not yet processed are: £17.98 on the Monarda Mix from Express Offers, £74.84 on the Van Meuwen plant order and £44.47 for the 5 Star Wood Treatment.

Committed funds in account are: Jubilee Project £1,391; Skate Park Fund £4,869 (plus £1,000 due from Carnival in October) leaving a working balance of £647.

Around £30 has been raised by easyfundraising.com that is not yet included.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 2014/15 Budget Cuts

Although no formal feedback on the results of the council consultation has been received, it is understood that the cuts proposed have been reduced to £550,000, approximately half of those originally planned.

According to the Greenspace Forum over 2,800 responses were received – the highest level of any council consultation to date. This was largely due to the efforts of groups like our own trying to raise public awareness of the cuts.

It remains to be seen how the cuts directly impact the park and our own activities. We still feel that the council should increase support to Friends Groups to save money, not reduce or withdraw it. We do not believe the people making the decisions are listening to Friends Groups such as our own, or understand what it is that we do.

5.2 Bowling Green Steps

The steps remain fenced off for safety. The council has asked our opinion, and also the Bowlers, regarding proposals to remove the steps and grass them over. We are happy with this and would like to see it happen as soon as possible but it is not clear if the council has the funds. *(Post meeting note: Richard Booker has advised: The work to break out the steps and extend the grass banking has been agreed and an order has been sent to our contractor. I expect the work to be carried out in the next 8 weeks but I will confirm this with you nearer the time.)*

5.3 Lyme Park Bulbs

Joyce has followed up the possible supply of bulbs from Lyme Park again this year but has learned that they intend to use them in the park so none will be available.

5.4 Intelligence Logs

Ronit Bowman, Senior Community Safety Officer at SMBC has issued some Anti-Social-Behaviour Intelligence Logs and these were shared with the group. We are not sure how useful these are from our group's point of view but have suggested that an on-line version could be made available that our web site and other groups' web sites could link to for people wishing to give feedback on anti-social behaviour in the park.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 9 September 2013 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2013 (library booked):

9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December 2013.