

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Mick Thompson, Adrian Ellis, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Joyce Reed, Cllr. Malcolm Allan, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Patrick O'Herlihy, Bob Wilson, Lorraine Thompson.

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

### **3.0 Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Consultation on better Football Provision**

A draft consultation has been received from Greenspace and a number of exchanges have passed between the council, Cllr Allan and Mark about the details of this.

Cllr. Allan advised that fellow councillors were receptive to resolving the issue in the simplest practical way that complies with procedures and that Ian Walmsley had recently asked him to confirm if the Friends group wanted a consultation to take place, or if they preferred to proceed without it if this can be agreed.

The group's position is that consultation is not required because there is no intention to breach the existing by-laws. All that is necessary is for the council to revoke the decision made by MUDC in 1919 that football and cricket are not allowed in the park. The consultation was requested by councillors at Area Committee last year and the action placed on council officers to address. If consultation does need to take place then it should be done properly and we will support it in any way we can.

*(Post Meeting Note: After reporting our response to Ian Walmsley on 13 December, Cllr Allan was advised that the consultation letter had already been published. The letter, dated 12 December, was hand delivered to residents and gives a deadline of 28 December for responses. Comments on the content have been passed to Cllr Allan.)*

#### **3.2 Possible fencing of Bowling Green**

Richard Booker has advised that he is waiting on an AC decision (not Marple) for two other sites proposed for bowling green fencing. Pending this it's anticipated that the works will be tendered as one fencing job covering all sites early in the New Year.

#### **3.4 Play Areas and Play Equipment**

##### **Infants Play Area Improvements**

Richard has advised that the installation contractor is expected to begin Play Equipment improvements early in the New Year, subject to equipment deliveries. The contractor has 7 projects to carry out between now and April 2017. Marple is expected to be one of the first but works will be prioritised as the equipment arrives.

##### **Infants Play Area Gates**

The council's Health & Safety advisors have said that they do not like the spring closers on the existing gates to the Infants Play Area. As a result the council will be installing new hydraulic gates similar to the ones on the Junior Play Area.

The council has advised that they will re-install the Playground sign above the main entrance but not the one above the rear entrance (which is very old / decayed).

We have asked that the new gates are colour matched to the existing fence.

The springs on the existing gates have been removed already, pending the replacements. Unfortunately this means that the gates now often hang open, making it possible for dogs to get into the play area and foul. This has been highlighted to the council as a problem and they have responded to say that Play Maintenance will fit catches to the gates allowing them to hold in a closed position until the new gates can be fitted. It is anticipated that the programme to replace the gates will commence towards the end of January – Marple has been prioritised.

### **3.5 Park Attendant**

After writing to Ian O'Donnell, Cllr Allan has had further discussions with Ian Walmsley about this matter. He is basically being advised that the council's commitment is to ensure that all works are done in the park, not to provide a full time attendant.

The group feel that this misses the point, as ensuring that all the work is done by the roving team would still be the commitment if the proposed cut had been made. But it wasn't made, we were told that the budget for a full time attendant was being left intact and that it would be under the same terms as the previous year.

Cllr Allan has satisfied himself that this was the agreement and will pursue it further.

It was noted again that at the rate this is going it is unlikely to be resolved, if ever, before the end of this financial year, when it will all be history. It's very disappointing that we've not been given a proper explanation of how this money has been used.

Our key questions remain:

- How much was the sum of money left in the budget for a full time attendant?
- It is not being used for this, so how and where is it the money being spent?

### **3.6 Park Benches**

The picnic bench that was damaged and pulled out by vandals has been repaired off-site by Terry and will be stored until next spring and installed in better weather.

A quote and proof has been passed to the Parry family for adding an additional plaque to their bench. The cost is £75.50. We have offered to do it at cost with a donation to the park if they wish. *(PMN: £100 has been received and the plaque ordered.)*

### **3.7 Town Centre Benches**

Local business "54 Degrees North Ltd" has offered to sponsor the last bench on Market Street. We've agreed to firm up the details in the spring of next year.

The Regent Cinema and The McInnes Partnership (our accountants) have expressed an interest in sponsoring a bench on The Hollins. It was also noted that Wilson's Greengrocers is under new ownership. These will be followed up next spring too.

### **3.8 Park Buildings and Infrastructure**

Terry discovered that the Pear sculpture had been pulled out recently. He tried to refit it but without success due to the poor condition of the base. It has now been moved to the woodland area to rot down and the council has removed the metal bars.

It was also noted that the council were seen removing another ground sculpture near to Midnight. We have not been advised but assume this was because it was loose.

Myers Tree Care is still on the lookout for replacement logs and a suitable trunk for the longer-term replacement of Midnight.

### **3.9 Skatepark Development Project**

#### **Latest Skatepark Project News**

ISWOK Boutique are making their donation via Local Giving.

We've received a replacement cheque for £39.60 from Robinson's Brewery.

We've received a further £383.60 via the Local Giving Grow Your Tenner scheme, making £807 so far. The final amount is projected to be around £1,700 if all payments are continued but will not be included in any figures until received in the bank.

We've received a donation of £100 from Peter and Carolyn Griffiths.

We've had a donation of £192 from Kevin Dowling from sales of his Red Hat Guide to Manchester City Centre. This is added to previous donations from the sales of Kevin's novel "A Man of Insignificance" and is a great contribution.

We await the outcome of our application to the ASDA Foundation.

We had a further meeting with Canvas Spaces and the council on Wednesday 30 November. The revised design is now finalised and agreed, subject to minor tweaks, with a value of £100,000. Actions to get back to this value were:

- Removed seating (but we have plans to put it back in).
- Removed the blocking up of the back of the existing ramps.
- Cut a long corner off the overall footprint (and minimise impact on design).
- Agreed changes to landscaping and remedial works that means we and the council will do some of the work (mainly soiling and seeding up).

Canvas are now finalising the documentation required by the council to place an order and the council has engaged a Landscape Officer to draw up the contract.

We have a provisional installation programme but will not publish details until the order is placed and formal agreements reached.

#### **Skatepark Funding Update:**

|                     |          |   |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| Target:             | £100,000 |   |
| Community Funding:  | £46,720  | (growth of £715 since last meeting).    |
| With match funding: | £93,440  |   |
| Balance needed:     | £6,560   | (reduced by £1,431 since last meeting). |
| We need to raise:   | £3,280   | (50% of balance).                       |

#### **Fund Raising Events:**

##### **Christmas Collections at Asda 15 to 17 December**

The pop-up display has been purchased from Inkbox at a cost of £50.

New collection buckets have been purchased at a cost of £21.

We've had a good response from volunteers and only two slots are not filled, which we can find a way to cover. We're in the store from Thursday to Saturday 10am to 8pm.

*(Post Meeting Note: collections went extremely well and £1,876 was raised. A thank you letter has been given to ASDA with details of the results.)*

##### **#GiveMe5**

There is another opportunity for £5 donations to be doubled via the Local Giving #GiveMe5 scheme on Friday 16 December. Up to 1000 donations will be matched.

### **3.10 World War I Centenary Commemorations**

#### **Timeline Commemoration**

No change – all is quiet until the first man of 1917 on 25 January.

#### **WW2 Plaque**

The college has been chased up but not replied. We will have to assume that they have been unable to find the Admiralty plaque that was lost.

Anne is still working on her idea for a film and we look forward to the result.

#### **War Memorial Registration and Survey Workshop**

Mark attended the follow-up workshop on Friday 18 November. Photos of the main War Memorial have now been uploaded and all our surveys completed.

Technical problems with the web site were reported and are to be addressed.

We have been asked by Civic Voice to apply for a statutory listing of the war memorial and Mark has the pack to do this.

### **3.11 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Day – 26 November 2016**

The main task was planting of 5,000 crocuses to commemorate the fallen of Stockport. The bulbs were provided by the council and we planted them in scrolls along the main pathway (opposite the ones provided by Rotary last year).

#### **Next Task Day – 31 December 2016**

Several volunteers are keen to do this so we will go ahead.

Parking is arranged and emails will be sent out before Christmas.

#### **Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2016 / 2017**

**Approved:** 31 December. **To register:** All of 2017.

#### **Ad-hoc Daily Task Days**

Daily Task Days are approved on the council's system until 31 December 2016. We now need to apply for next year.

Town Centre Bench task days are now complete until next year.

#### **Risk Assessments / Training**

No change: we are still waiting for suitable dates for Lorraine and Micaela to do the Team Leader training and for Mick and Bob to do the power-tools training.

Risk Assessments are being updated to support submission of 2017 task day applications via the council's system.

#### **Power Tools**

No change.

## **4.0 Funding - Status of Funds**

Latest statement dated 22 November 2016 shows a bank balance of £46,525.62

### **Income since last meeting includes:**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| £39.60  | Robinson's Brewery.                                  |
| £383.60 | Local Giving Grow Your Tenner.                       |
| £25.00  | Donation from Veteran's Bowling Club.                |
| £100.00 | Skatepark donation from Peter and Carolyn Griffiths. |
| £192.00 | Donation from Kevin Dowling.                         |
| £92.68  | Collected in park over last few task days.           |

### **Expenditure since last meeting includes:**

|        |                         |
|--------|-------------------------|
| £4.95  | Sanding belts.          |
| £21.00 | New collecting buckets. |
| £50.00 | Pop-up banner.          |

Income this year to date is now £20,586 and income total is £95,204.

Spent year to date is £5,090.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park £46,720, WWI Display £128 and Town Centre Benches £28. This leaves a working balance of £332, which doesn't include £34 raised by Gill with Christmas cards sales still to pay in.

## **5.0 Any Other Business**

### **5.1 Roman Lakes Tea Dance: 26 November**

An excellent evening enjoyed by everyone! Thanks to Gill for organising.

### **5.2 Christmas Tree Festival**

The tree is on display at St Martin's until 9 January. Thank you and well done to Micaela, Lorraine, Joyce, Terry and Gill for their hard work on this.

### **5.3 Flagpole Halyard**

The flagpole near the war memorial needs a new halyard as the existing one is perishing. We replaced the one on the other flagpole a couple of years ago. Only one supplier has been found, so no comparative prices are available. The cost is higher than last time at £68. The group agreed to proceed with an order.

### **5.4 Christmas Do with Marple & Goyt Valley Rotary**

Several volunteers will join Marple & GV Rotary for their last Christmas meal next Tuesday at the Royal Hotel, Hayfield.

### **5.5 Stockport Hydro Environmental Challenge**

An application to fund the purchase of Bee Friendly Shrubs for the park has been submitted to Stockport Hydro. We should hear in March if it is successful.

## **6.0 Next Meeting**

Monday 9 January 2017 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

### **Future meeting dates scheduled for 2017 (library booked):**

9 January, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May and 12 June 2017.