

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 13th July 2009
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Peter Bardsley, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Jonathan Long, Patrick O’Herlihy.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

4.0

3.1 Basketball Court

Adrian advised that returns regarding the borough-wide resurfacing of tennis and basketball courts were now being collated and it will be clear by the next meeting if funding for resurfacing of our court is available.

3.2 Roundabout in Infants Play Area

This is now waiting for an order to be placed by Gareth of Playground Maintenance for a replacement roundabout using a conventional spindle and bearing system. It is subject to funding and the expectation is that it will be resolved by the autumn.

3.3 Apple & Pear Sculptures

It was proposed to install the Apple and Pear sculptures during the next task day on 25 July 2009. (*Post meeting note: Completed successfully.*)

3.4 Boules Court.

Interpretation

Mark presented the design for a new interpretation panel that will explain how the Boules court was funded, the rules of the game and the fact that free sets of boules can be borrowed from Bob.

Mark confirmed that he has made an application to O₂ asking if they would be prepared to fund the cost of the panel. The application was submitted on 10 July and a response is expected within 28 days.

The group approved the design and it was agreed to go ahead using existing funds if the O₂ application is not successful.

Grass under new seats

Mark asked if the grass under the new seats could be trimmed regularly or prevented from growing as it had become very long and required cutting during the task day in June to ensure they looked their best for the Locks Festival. Adrian advised that he has now added the seats and the perimeter of the court to the “boxing round” cutting list so they should be cut regularly in the future.

Compaction

During the Locks Festival a gentleman called Bob Taylor offered the group the use of his compactor and Mark asked if it was acceptable for the group to use it on the Boules court during a future task day. Adrian agreed that it was and Mark will get in touch with Bob about borrowing his compactor at a suitable time.

3.5 War Memorial

Memorial Rockery Scheme

Bob has discussed briefly with Jacky Budd the group's request for replacements for the specimens in the new planting scheme that have not survived and also their desire to include poppies in the scheme.

Due to Jacky's involvement in the Tatton Show there has not been time to progress this properly and Bob will speak to her again once the show is over.

Chain link fence

It was agreed during a site visit after the last meeting that the installation of a low chain link fence along the hard-edged tarmac borders of the memorial beds would be a good enhancement.

Adrian passed over to Mark some details of wooden post and chain fencing and it was agreed that we should measure up the amount required and review other options and suppliers. It was also suggested that the Parks Maintenance Team might be able to make something suitable at a lower cost than purchasing proprietary fencing.

Names on the Memorial

The removal and replacement of Danny Winter's entry on the war memorial has been satisfactorily resolved but Mark highlighted that if the group had been advised of the error and the need to re-do the engraving at the time it would have prevented the concerns that arose when it was removed without explanation.

The group asked Adrian to pass on their thanks to Dave Burrows for the quick action in removing the graffiti from the memorial after they reported it to him and also for responding to their request to re-in-fill Charles Henry Ingham's engraving with fresh paint.

3.6 Improvements to the Park Entrance

As reported previously, Jonathan wants to get an idea of what is growing already in the entrance area before developing plans for planting up in the autumn, so this remains ongoing.

Patrick has sent a report advising that he has raised the possibility of local schools getting involved with this project to Mrs. Bragg at Rose Hill Primary. As the school is going through major re-organisation with the

closure of Peacefield and the integration of The Dale with effect from September he has said that he will raise it again during the autumn term when things will hopefully have settled down.

3.7 Task Days

Previous Task Day – 30 May 2009

The Coronation Bench was rubbed down and repainted. Cost of materials was £31.76 for paint, brushes, sandpaper etc. Ornamental beds were cleared ready for summer planting and £12 was raised selling plants.

Previous Task Day – 27 June 2009

The Boules court and Bowling Green paths were tidied up ready for the Locks Festival and sunflower plants were added to the memorial beds to fill some of the gaps left by the specimens that have failed.

Next Task Day – 25 July 2009

It is planned to install the Apple and Pear sculptures and possibly compact the Boules court. Mark passed over some posters to Micaela for the local shops and will submit the request for free parking.

3.8 Bird Survey

A copy of Ian Hilton's latest report was passed around and discussed. It was agreed that it would be interesting to analyse these after the first 12 months of reports.

3.9 Park Cottage/ Bandroom Proposals

The Brass Bands of Marple have obtained agreement for the project from Marple's councillors and are negotiating the exact terms of a 99 year lease. They have consulted planning and conservation officers, who have responded favourably, and they are now preparing to apply formally for planning consent.

(Post Meeting Note: The Bands have now published a leaflet on-line that explains all about the project and the next steps that they need to take.)

4.0 Fundraising Activities

Adrian passed on information from Richard Booker that a new grant scheme for Friends of Groups is expected to be set up at the end of the summer and information should be available about this within the next month or two.

(Post Meeting Note: Richard has also sent though some information about SK Money, a government initiative to improve facilities for 13 to 19 year olds that may be suitable for improvements to the Skate Park.)

Micaela confirmed that she would organise a tombola for the Food Festival in September. Mark will prepare a letter to distribute to local shops and businesses asking for their support on this with the donation of prizes.

4.1 Status of Funds

Current bank balance: £1,896

Committed Funds: £53 (Interpretation)

Working balance: £1,843

Expenditure since the last meeting in May is £31.76 on painting materials for the Coronation Bench. Income in the same period is £10 from Mark's football competition and £12 from sales of bedding plants.

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob advised that there has been lots of maintenance to do in the park and he has received some help from Peter in order to get all the bedding planting completed.

Bob also advised that the loose lamppost spotted at a previous task day has now been re-concreted securely and there had been a significant amount of tree work done in the park since the last meeting.

Bob has received an enquiry about a person who has recently been made redundant and would like to spend some time during the summer working in the park as a volunteer. It was felt that this should be possible if they were a member of the Friends Group and worked under the same conditions as we normally do on task days, under the supervision of Bob. Adrian agreed to pursue this further with the person concerned. It was also agreed that the group would purchase a Friends of the Park polo shirt for them to wear if the arrangement went ahead.

Micaela mentioned that there appeared to be a large loose branch hanging from a tree near to the cinema. Adrian will take a look at this on the way out of the park this evening.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Surfacing of Nature Walk Pathway

The District Partnership have suggested that they may have some funding available to surface the nature trail pathway running down from the cinema and alongside the canal with gravel or bark chippings. Jonathan has expressed a preference for bark chippings, as they do not damage the mowers and cannot be thrown with any great effect.

This opportunity was discussed at length. The parks team already has a supply of bark chippings, so the only cost involved would be the labour required to lay them. It was felt that even this cost could be alleviated if the work were done during the task days and it was therefore agreed that Mark will ask the Partnership if they would consider alternative projects and if they have any criteria for what they may be able to fund.

6.2 Painting of Bowling Green Building (ongoing)

The suggestion that the group could re-paint the bowling green buildings if the council could provide the paint was discussed at the last meeting. Adrian agreed to discuss this with Jonathan to see what his views were on providing the paint for it to be done in September.

6.3 Senior Citizens Bench Proposal (ongoing)

Towards the end of last year Patrick established that the Senior Citizens were interested in funding a bench that could be sited in the shade from where the bowls could be watched but they would not be able to pay for it until this year. Patrick has reported that he has not managed to follow this up yet but will endeavour to do so for the next meeting.

6.4 Science / Children's Features (ongoing)

At the last meeting Patrick described some interesting features for children installed in Lyme Park and agreed to obtain photographs and more details for the next meeting so that their suitability for Memorial Park can be considered. This is ongoing.

6.5 Lock 17 Display

Patrick has raised concerns about the appearance of the Lock 17 flowerbeds and asked who is responsible for its planting and maintenance. Adrian confirmed that the council is responsible for the planting and they have attempted to develop a scheme that will be permanent, rather than needing to be replanted on a regular basis. This has been partially successful but more work is needed. This should be addressed soon, as it is already the subject of complaints received from residents via Cllr. Alexander. Part of the problem is the delay by British Waterways in providing the stone for the mounting of Gordon Mills' dedication plaque. This was promised for delivery before the Locks Festival and a hole was prepared in the front bed by the Locks Society for it to be installed in but BW then failed to keep their promise, resulting a large area of the bed being left bare. The Locks Society continues to seek BW's cooperation on this but the delays are proving to be very frustrating and embarrassing for all concerned.

6.6 Green Flag Award for 2009/10

Adrian advised that the outcome of the Green Flag judging for 2009/10 was expected to be announced on 22nd July 2009.

(Post Meeting Note: It has been confirmed that the Park has been awarded a Green Flag for the sixth successive year. The award ceremony will be a local one at Vernon Park and Micaela hopes to attend on behalf of the group with Bob if she can get the time off work.)

6.7 Tools for Park / Task Days (late addition)

Adrian confirmed that he has a budget for new tools and will order them as soon as he can make time to do so.

7.0 Date of next Meeting:

Monday 12th October 2009 at 6pm in Marple Library.

List of reminders:

Outdoor Fitness Equipment.