

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 13th June 2016
Marple Library**

Present: Adrian Ellis, Joyce Reed, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Mark Whittaker. Part time: Malcolm Allan, Patrick O'Herlihy.

1.0 Apologies: Mick Thompson, Lorraine Thompson.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 ASB / CCTV

Change to CCTV Cycle

In February a request was made to amend the CCTV camera cycle now that the teen shelter has been removed. This request was acknowledged on 29 February by Public Realm Manager Johanna Smith, who agreed to look at availability to do it, but we are still waiting. Mark followed up with a reminder on 11 June and we await a response.

Fencing / gating of the WWI Bowling Pavilion

Faults have now been rectified and the work was inspected with Wayne Bardsley on Thursday. It has now been agreed that payment can be authorised and the invoice for £3,150 should be submitted to us and will be paid on receipt.

Covenants and By-laws (permitting an improved Football Facility)

This has been ongoing between us, Greenspace and Legal since November 2014.

In December 2015 Marple AC requested consultation with park users / stakeholders.

In February Greenspace advised that they are awaiting further responses from Legal.

From our perspective it remains unclear what needs to be changed or why, so it is a very confusing situation. Our interpretation is that providing such a facility is open to all then it would comply with the covenants and by-laws on the park.

In the last month Councillor Malcolm Allan has met with Ian Walmsley to discuss the situation and is pushing for the requested consultation to be completed as quickly and simply as possible. The matter was also mentioned at Marple Area Committee again this month as it is on their list of outstanding matters.

Ian Walmsley has identified that a pair of better goalposts are available and these could be installed in the park if the consultation is successfully completed.

Patrick raised some concerns about the ground conditions on the former tennis court where the existing single goalpost is situated. This may need to be addressed too.

3.2 Play Areas and Play Equipment

The Spinner in the Junior Play Area has now been reinstalled.

New committed sums were approved at Marple AC last week and there is now a total of £13,526 available for improvements to children's play equipment in the park.

Mark has arranged to meet Richard Booker on 29 June to discuss how this could be spent. Potential improvements likely to be considered include new infant swings, replacement of the Wendy house and replacement of the old springer items.

3.3 Park Attendant

Malcolm has met with Ian Walmsley to discuss issues surrounding the loss of the full time park attendant. He received assurances about how the park is looked after by SSK in terms of maintenance standards and the general regime that is now being applied. There is an attendant in the park until morning tea break each day to carry out litter-picking etc. but most of the maintenance work is done by a roving team.

The group see that there are two issues arising from this. One is the standard of maintenance and the other relates to the proposed budget cuts, the consultation that took place with the public and the responses to this made by the council including the budgetary decisions and statements that were made subsequent to the consultation.

In terms of the present standards of maintenance, we are generally happy with the quality of grass cutting – particularly around the flowerbeds, where box cutting is still being done. We are disappointed that the rose next to Danny Winter's bench was mown over and is now dead and we are not satisfied with the trimming of borders around the park's shrub beds, flowerbeds and hedges. This was discussed on site with Wayne Bardsley. Our concerns were passed onto SSK and should be addressed.

Mark has also met with SSK Area Supervisor Steve McGlynn to discuss the issues.

In relation to the proposed budget cuts, the situation remains very unclear and we do not consider that we've had a satisfactory explanation of what has happened. The scenario as we understand it is as follows:

- A saving was proposed that the budget for the full time attendant in the park would be cut and roving teams would do all maintenance work in the park.
- The proposal was part of a series of public consultations and there were strong objections to the loss of the full time park attendant in our park.
- We understand the response by the Council's Executive was that this specific budget cut would not be implemented and the funds would be left in specifically for the purpose of maintaining a full time park attendant.
- We received assurances from several councillors that this was the case.
- Marple LibDem Newsletter Keeping in Touch stated that "We're now hoping to KEEP the PARKIE FULL TIME – despite Government cuts" and added that this needed to be confirmed by a vote at the Annual Budget meeting in March.
- We do not have a full time attendant as we believed had been promised. Instead, we have a roving team doing most of the work as was identified in the original budget cut proposals.

So our questions are:

- Was the Executive decision to maintain the budget for a full time attendant agreed at the Annual Budget meeting in March?

And if so:

- What has happened to that money?
- It is not being spent on a full time attendant and the proposed cuts included our park being maintained by a roving teams, as it is now. So it could be construed that the money is possibly being spent in a completely different way to how the Executive decided. So, how and where is it the money being spent?

Malcolm agreed to seek further answers to these questions.

3.4 Park Benches

General Bench Maintenance

Maintenance of park benches is now well underway.

The council has ordered 4 x 5L tins of Summer Tan preservative.

We've also purchased 4 x 5L tins of Summer Tan and 2 tins of Dark Brown for the Town Centre benches covered by Equity Fund (£70) and the TC Bench fund (£35).

Patrick has sanded and treated the Alan Procter bench and is happy with the result.

The council has confirmed that we can sand down and treat the Longley bench near to the French Boules Court.

Patrick plans to disassemble one of the Woodville benches and sand down the wooden slats at home and then return to reassemble.

We need to rub down and touch-up the front edges of the brown metal benches.

It was agreed that the cycle bars can be painted with black Hammerite.

Town Centre Benches

Harmony Decor has provided 2 x 2.5L tin of Hammerite as part of their sponsorship.

Helen Winterson has provided £120 of sponsorship for the bench near their shop.

Phil Gould-Martin has provided £300 for sponsorship for a bench to be refurbished and have four family related plaques added near to the Kay Dee shop.

Helen Winterson and Gould-Martin plaques have been ordered at a cost of £195.45.

A separate supply of preservative has been purchased for TC benches (see above).

A new task day application covering TC bench refurbishments from 1 May to 31 October was submitted and is now approved by the council. So we are ready to proceed on these next two benches when volunteers are available.

3.5 Park Buildings

Bowling Pavilion windows have been repaired.

The electric heater in the Mess Room is hanging off the wall. This has been reported several times and is now on the property maintenance list. Hopefully it will be dealt with quickly as it should be considered a safety issue.

The poor state of the Bowlers' Hut double doors has been reported.

SSK has been asked to look at what can be cleared out of the Bowling Pavilion store.

3.6 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

Grant applications to Postcode Community Trust and Greggs were unsuccessful.

We have received £500 from the Rotary Club of Stockport.

We raised £1,120 at Marple Skatefest II music night – special thanks are due to All Things Nice, Hawk Green Cricket Club, Marple Co-Op, Dave Ingham and the young bands and musicians who performed.

We raised £187 at the Hawk Green Maypole event.

We received a £100 donation from Nitrotek Ltd, who operate from the Goyt Mill.

We received a £64 donation from Trident Electronics.

We received another £56 from a recent Ring o' Bells Quiz Night.

£941 was raised by the Julian Wadden Treasure Hunt. A big thanks was recorded to them and all the programme sponsors and raffle prize donors.

We also received a £50 donation (£46.60 after local giving fees) from Marple Athletic JFC raised by the sale of club beanie hats to players and their families.

We've been advised that our recent application to Stockport Homes for a further £1,000 Community Count Award towards the project was successful.

We've made contact with Canvas Spaces and they have advised that they are still committed to the project. We need them to confirm any changes in cost as soon as they can – we may need to chase this up via Jane, who is on holiday until 27 June.

Skatepark Funding Update:

£160 from the Treasure Hunt and £1,000 from Stockport Homes is not yet in the bank. Once it is, the current funding situation should be:

Target:	£100,000	
Community Funding:	£39,707	(growth of £4,311 since April AGM).
With match funding:	£79,414	
Balance needed:	£20,586	(reduced by £8,622 since April AGM).
We need to raise:	£10,293	(50% of balance).

Future Events:

Marple Carnival – Saturday 18 June

We will have two stalls, one in the main area near to the flowerbeds selling plants and other things like Splat the Rat, subject to volunteers. We will also have a stall at the skatepark to support a "Skatepark Marathon Jam" by Skatepark users.

We've met with the Marple Hall School headmaster and he is hopeful that students will support the event and do other activities too to help raise funds.

We've amended our public liability insurance to cover non-competitive activities at the skatepark and also to cover the eventuality that we may raise as much as £25,000 this year. (Our existing policy covered us for an income of £13,000 PA only and we have almost raised that much already since January.) The new insurance premium is £296 for the next 12 months, an increase of approximately £100.

#GiveMe5 Local Giving Campaign

We've launched an on-line local giving page for the Skate Jam mentioned above and also a more general "Crowd Funding" style appeal page for the overall project. This has already received £115 worth of donations (not included in funding update above).

On Thursday 16 June Local Giving are running a scheme where 1,000 x £5 donations will be doubled, so we will be trying to encourage more contributions on the day.

Photography Exhibition at Samuel Oldknow's

Lewis Abbott, Arthur Procter and Mark will be holding a photography exhibition in the Samuel Oldknow bar on Market Street. It will be launched on Friday 8th July with a Free Cheese and Wine evening to raise funds for the project.

Art Auction

Approximately 16 paintings have been received so far. We've also written to Vernon Mill Artists, the Mellor Art Society, Silk 'n' Threads and will try photographers too.

We are waiting for Steve Abbott to speak with Graham, the potential compare / auctioneer to determine a date for the event – probably in September.

Food and Drink Day (*PMN: date = Saturday 17 September*)

Micaela confirmed that she and Terry will organise the tombola as usual and that she would like the usual letter for distribution to local shops and businesses.

Mark will confirm the date of the event and then prepare a new letter. (*PMN: Done*).

Christmas Collections

Christmas collection dates are all booked up: Thursday 15 to Saturday 17 December. We will need branded vests and a pop-up display in good time for this.

3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

Leonard Austin was added on 11 May and Harry Frost on 18 May. Malcolm Henry Young is due on 28 June and there are 11 more to go on during the month of July.

WW2 Plaque

The stone from the ECO Centre has been grit blasted and delivered free of charge by Marple Blasting Services. A local retired stone mason has lent us some tools and a flat area for mounting the plaque is in the process of being ground onto the stone.

It has been necessary to purchase a small £15 “Dremel” type grinder to get into the corners. It was felt that this would be a useful tool to have available for other purposes too and it was agreed that the Equity Fund could be used to pay for it.

A location in one of the flowerbeds has been agreed with Wayne from Greenspace and now needs to be discussed with Marple Local History Society.

Adrian will donate some bags of postcrete for use when installing the stone.

The Marple Review has enquired about featuring the project in the September issue.

3.7 Task Days

Last Task Day – 14, 28 May and 11 June 2016

Lots of work on flowerbeds and shrub beds has been completed. Maintenance of benches and wooden feature is now well underway. Maintenance work has been done on the French Boules Court and lots of litter-picking too.

Next Task Days – 25 June & 16 July 2016

Free parking has been granted for these dates.

Mark will send out the task day emails around a week in advance.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2016

Approved: 25 June, 16 & 30 July & 13 August.

To register: 27 August, 10 & 24 September, 29 October and 26 November.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days are approved on the council’s system until 31 December 2016.

Town Centre Benches are covered until 31 October 2016.

Risk Assessments / Training

RA's for the Treasure Hunt and Marple Carnival have been prepared and approved.

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.

In order to satisfy our new insurance policy conditions we now need to have a simple Health and Safety Policy in place. Mark sent out a draft policy with the agenda for attendees to review and this was agreed by those present and adopted by the group. It was signed by Chair, Secretary and Treasurer at the meeting.

Power Tools

"Dremel" type cutting tool has been purchased to enable cutting of WW2 stone.

3.10 Equity Housing Grant for Tools

Some additional pots, edging shear and two pairs of hedge shears have been purchased at a cost of £17.90. Wood preserver for sculptures has been purchased for £70 and it was agreed to add the Dremel cutter (£14.99) to this too.

Total spend to date is £185, with a balance of £315 still to spend by end of the year.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Latest statement dated 20 May 2016 shows a bank balance of £41,831.77.

Income since last meeting includes:

£258.86	Ongoing Grow Your Tenner donations.
£781.00	Treasure Hunt (£160 still to come in).
£127.92	Collected in park.
£32.05	Kevin Dowling book sales.
£100.00	Nitrotek donation.
£420.00	Town Centre Bench donations.
£1,120.00	Marple Skatefest II.
£187.76	Hawk Green Maypole event.
£64.00	Trident Electronics donation.
£500.00	Rotary Club of Stockport.
£56.00	Ring o' Bells Quiz Night.
£46.60	Marple Athletic JFC (Beanie Hats).

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£17.00	Tools and materials – sculpture patch-up.
£33.77	Plants & Seeds.
£87.90	Equity Funds spent.
£230.45	Town Centre Benches – plaques and preservative.
£296.38	Public Liability Insurance.

Income this year to date is now £11,780.

Spends year to date is £907.21.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park £38,547, Pavilion Fencing £3,150, Tools £330, WWI Display £128 and Town Centre Benches £204.

This leaves a working balance of £226.

There is approximately £40 collected in the park still to pay into bank that is not included in the above figures.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Neighbourhood Plan

We will be represented on the forum.

5.2 Band Room Garden

The Charles Ingham Bandroom have approached us to see if we would be interested in maintaining their garden for a regular donation. It was agreed that this would be of interest, although we are unsure what works needs doing and what would be a fair charge. A site visit took place after the meeting and Mark will submit some proposals to Bandroom representatives.

5.3 Perspex for Library Cabinet and Skatepark Notice Board

The perspex in the library noticeboard has been broken again. A replacement sheet has been ordered but because there is a small order charge we have also ordered a replacement sheet for the Skatepark Notice Board too. Total cost £52.40.

5.4 Replacement of log seating near Midnight

These logs are now badly decayed and one has been rolled down the hill several times. Mark has asked Myers Tree Care if they can take them away for us and replace with suitable new limbs during the course of their tree work.

5.5 Longer-term plan to replace Midnight

As we've recently discovered, the "Midnight" tree sculpture is now decaying badly from the inside higher up than the resin-injection preservation work done a couple of years ago. It will eventually need to be removed and replaced in the not too distant future and Mark has also asked David Myers to look out for a suitable trunk from which we may be able to have a replacement sculpture carved.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 8 August 2016 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2016 (library booked):

8 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November & 12 December 2016.