

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Terry Wood, Micaela Wood, Patrick O’Herlihy, Mick Thompson, Anne Frazer, Bob Wilson, Joyce Reed, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Lorraine Thompson, Adrian Ellis.

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

**3.0 Matters Arising.**

**3.1 Diamond Jubilee Project**

**Completion of Repairs**

The jewels have been re-fixed to the crown by welding new brackets on the back and it has been repainted. Gold spray-paint was purchased for £9.70. Wayne Chaisty has provided an invoice for £150 for his welding services and this has been paid.

GT Landscapes have re-fixed three loose copingstones and re-pointed the others. They have issued an invoice for £150 and this has been paid.

All planned repairs have now been completed and paid for by the group.

**Funding of Repairs**

A Flexibility Funding application for £620 to cover the cost of all repairs was submitted to Marple Area Committee in February and will be considered at the Area Committee Meeting on Wednesday 12 March. *(Post meeting note: Application was approved.)*

**Possible Extension of Library / Hollins House CCTV Systems**

A report has at last been received from SSK on the options and costs of extending the CCTV camera systems. The report glosses over the cost of extending the library system, stating that a more comprehensive system can be provided via Hollins House.

The price for three additional cameras to cover the front of the library, the bowling green and the bowling pavilion is quoted as £2,172+VAT. It is not clear exactly where it is proposed to site the cameras or if they will also cover the toilets. It is hoped that this will be the case and Mark has asked for a layout drawing that shows camera positions and zones that would be covered. As usual, a response to this request is taking some time.

Pending receipt of the layout drawing, Mark has passed the quotation onto Marple Area Committee with a request to consider if they could support this and how it might be possible to fund it. *(PMN: At Marple Area Committee on Weds 12 March Cllr. Martin Candler advised that the committee will ask officers to prepare a full feasibility study.)*

**Deployable CCTV**

Costs for this are quoted as £2,100. The “Joint Action Group” (SMBC, GMP and Partners) has decided that this is not cost effective, so it will not be pursued. They say: “They will continue to support the group by continuing patrols, litter patrols and support from Dog Wardens. We’ll also continue to be able to have meetings with Ronit Bowman, the Council’s Neighbourhood Safety Officer”.

## **3.2 Park Benches**

### **Picnic Benches**

Terry still needs to provide an invoice for £50 from the DLC covering materials for this and the threaded bars for re-fixing the five ground sculptures (*PMN: Now done*).

We still need to get the picnic bench stored in the Bowler's Hut installed (and the sculptures). This needs to be done as soon as we can so that the Bowling Club can spring clean the hut before the season starts. (*PMN: Bench was installed on 11 March and sculptures moved to the Pavilion Building so they are out of the way*).

### **Extra Picnic Bench inside Infants Play Area**

A second bench for this area is on order from the David Lewis Centre.

### **General Bench Maintenance**

The new commemorative bench for the Infants Play Area has been ordered by Anthony Crook at the council and is expected in 4 to 6 weeks.

Anthony is now advising that installation of a hard surface under the bench located between the two play areas will be done at the same time as the new Play Area bench is installed, whereas previously he had said end of March. Mark will ask him to try to hold the end of March date if possible.

After trials we have now settled on the "Summer Tan" preservative as the best colour for future bench maintenance. It is darker than the "Golden Brown" we have previously used but not too dark, like the "Dark Brown" tried on the Bluhm bench. Mark has asked Jonathan if he can provide us with some tins of this but he says he cannot do so until new budgets are received in the next financial year.

The Alan Proctor bench has graffiti on it again and will need sanding and varnishing.

Patrick is seeking sponsors for the 3 concrete benches near the bowling green hedge.

Patrick has been treating the benches with "green-away" solution. This has given good results and he would like to buy some more of this, which was agreed.

The Coronation Bench needs adding to the list of jobs to do this year.

### **Town Centre Benches**

We are hoping to do a trial bench on Derby Way to confirm how much work is involved and to demonstrate how good a job we will be able to make of them. Unfortunately this has proved difficult due to the constant wet weather but hopefully we will be able to make some progress soon.

Patrick will take "before" pictures of all the benches in preparation for making an application to Area Committee for funding as Marple Regeneration Partnership.

## **3.3 Infants Play Area Fence**

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

### **3.4 Treatment of Sculptures**

#### **Refitting of ground sculptures**

These will be moved out of the Bowler's Hut and reinstalled as soon as we can. It was agreed to treat the bottoms of them with under-seal before refitting.

#### **Stabilisation of "Midnight" Tree Sculpture**

During the last meeting it was mentioned that we should take a look at how we might combat decay of the tree sculpture around the roots. When Di Jackson read the minutes she reminded Mark about a company called Benring who specialise in the use of resins to preserve old timber (the same company who provided the resin for bonding the skate-stops). Mark has now sent Benring some photos of the sculpture and asked for them to advise us what they could do and how much it would cost.

### **3.5 Bowling Pavilion Building Access**

We haven't received our set of keys to the building yet. *(PMN: Steve McGlynn has confirmed that we should take the keys directly from Bob on his last day).*

Once we have the keys we can make arrangements for clearing out things we don't need and for the storing of our own equipment.

Jonathan has instructed Carillon to repairs the windows, some slates on the roof and to replace the vandalised drain pipes. Some of this work has now been done and presumably the rest will be completed soon. The repair to the window of the Mess Room is now quite urgent, as someone has recently attempted to break into it. This has been reported to Jonathan and the Community Safety Team.

Gill and Mark have now visited New Mills Library to look at the archives for the High Peak Reporter. The paper contained an article about the opening ceremony for the Bowling Green, the Bowling Pavilion and the Tennis Courts, which were all opened at the same time on 19 May 1923, but sadly there were no photographs published. Mark passed round a copy of the article, which will also be added to the web site. It was agreed it might be worth trying other local papers now that we know the date.

### **3.6 Skatepark Development Project**

#### **Teen Shelter**

We are still awaiting the outcome of discussions between the Community Safety Team and Green Space about the early removal of the Teen Shelter.

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

Minutes of the last skatepark meeting held on 27 February were distributed with the agenda and are also appended to the end of these minutes. Highlights are:

#### **Fund Raising Status**

Money raised to date: £16,296  
Money spent to date: £1,909 (Carnival Event)  
Community Fund Award: £1,700 (See below\*)  
Funding balance: £14,366  
Match-funding available: £12,666 (against a target of £20,000)

\*The Co-Op will review our request for change in purpose of their award mid-March.

Local artist Sarah Morley will be launching her "Art from the Parks" exhibition in support of the project on Saturday 15 March and it will run until 29 March. Anne agreed to attend the launch on behalf of the group – Mark will confirm times by email.

Inkbox of Marple, the shop on Market Street, will be collecting for the project between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> May. They will also match donations and are selling professional quality football boots donated by Umbro with all proceeds to the skatepark.

A tender document is now in preparation and we have arranged to meet with skatepark users at Marple Hall School on 17 March to take them through progress to date, to review the design brief and explain how we plan to involve them in the tendering and selection process. The next skatepark meeting is Thursday 20 March.

### **Complaint about litter from a local resident**

A resident of Station Road has written to complain about litter in the skatepark and teen area. She explains how litter has affected her and caused injury to her dog, suggesting that the users don't deserve a new skatepark if they can't take better care of the one that they have. The email was distributed and discussed by the group.

Mark carried out an inspection and took photos this morning at 7am before Bob cleared up after the weekend. There was litter on the skatepark but there was much more in the bins, which were full. Of course it is possible that others had picked-up and put litter in the bins. Photos have also been taken of dog fouling on the path next to the skatepark and in the grass next to the skatepark bin.

Bob stated that he hardly ever saw PCSOs in the park, despite the reassuring statement from the Joint Action Group noted earlier in these minutes. We need to continue pressure by submitting ABS logs whenever incidents are witnessed.

The complaint has been forwarded to Jonathan Long, Richard Booker and Jane Bardsley on the Council's Green Space Team; Ronit Bowman, the Community Safety Officer; and PCSOs Wendy Warburton and Bernie Kenyon. They have each been asked for their thoughts and feedback on how this situation might be improved. *(PMN: Currently only one response has been received from PCSO Wendy Warburton.)*

It was agreed that there was a great opportunity to raise the issue with skatepark users at the meeting at Marple Hall School next week and Mark will do this. *(Post meeting note: This was done and the deputy head attending the meeting suggested to students that they have a school assembly to raise awareness of the issues. One of the students also advised that he has helped an adult pick-up litter recently.)*

It was agreed that we could make sure potential skatepark designers give due consideration to the issues of litter and anti-social behaviour when they are developing their proposals by identifying this as a requirement in the design brief going out to tender. *(PMN: This has been incorporated into the design brief.)*

It was also agreed that removal of the teen shelter, which we have already raised with the council a number of times, would improve (but not cure) this situation. Teen shelter users are usually the source of broken glass, not the skatepark users. A slightly tongue-in-cheek suggestion was to paint the Teen Shelter pink!

It was agreed that litter is a problem throughout the park, not only at the skatepark, and one that is likely to get worse when Bob retires and there is no longer a permanent presence in the park to respond to the mess on a daily basis. It is felt

likely that we will need to organise litter patrols ourselves if we wish to maintain current standards. Mark has asked Jonathan for the latest SSK SLC so that we can see what they are contracted to do as far as litter picking and other work in the park.

During discussions it was felt that there is a strong parallel between litter and dog fouling in that a minority of people who don't pick up after their dogs give a very bad name to all dog owners. A similar situation exists with people who drop litter and we don't have any concrete answers to either of these issues.

Discussions also touched onto other facilities that people seem to want in the park, including sports exercise equipment for all ages and a small all-weather football pitch. These are certainly things that we can consider for the future.

Mark will reply to the complainant after responses from Officers and the MHS visit.

### **3.7 World War I Centenary Commemorations**

#### **War Memorial "Rose Wall" Hedge**

Project complete apart from ongoing maintenance and care of the roses.

#### **Another small WWI Project**

Mark has met with local artist Steve Abbott with a view to creating a piece of silhouette artwork to go in the steel frame near to the park entrance. Steve is currently working on ideas involving WWI silhouettes by Captain H.L. Oakley.

#### **Primary Schools WWI Project**

Still no feedback from Alan Chin. Marple Hall School History Department has expressed an interest in getting involved in the project and this information has been passed onto Alan along with another request for a progress update.

### **3.8 Park Cottage (Charles Ingham Bandroom)**

A formal invite has been received to the opening ceremony on Sunday 18 May, when both bands will take part in a "Brass in the Park" style concert.

### **3.9 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Day – Saturday 22 February 2014**

A really good turnout of volunteers allowed us to tackle a big revamp of the bed in front of the scout hut, lots of pruning and a start to bench maintenance.

We were joined by Prospective Conservative MP William Wragg, who has also written a letter of support for the skatepark project and donated £50 towards match funding.

#### **Nest Task Days**

#### **Tuesday 11 March 2014**

Tomorrow we will plant a "Wild Harvest" mix of whips with Marple, Mellor and Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy (MESS) at the launch of their "Incredible Edible Marple" project. The species will include Hazel, Blackthorn, Crab Apple and Dog Rose.

It was also agreed to make an early start so that we can install the repaired picnic bench and move the ground sculptures out of the Bowling Club Hut.

## **Saturday 29 March and Saturday 12 April 2014**

It's planned to get the ground sculptures fitted and make a start on the park flowerbeds during the next task day. From April we will start our twice-monthly regime of task days in the park.

Mark will send out parking requests and task day emails.

## **Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2014**

29 March, 12 & 26 April, 17 & 31 May, 14 & 28 June, 12 & 26 July, 16 & 30 August, 13 & 27 September, 25 October, 29 November & 27 December 2014.

## **Special Task Day – Monday 18 August with Challenge Network**

A special task day has been arranged with the Challenge Network, who will bring a team of up to 12 young volunteers with supervision to work with us in the park between 11am and 3.30pm. They will be covered by their own RA's and insurance.

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

Daily Task Days have been registered on the council's system until 30 June 2014 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures. These must be led by a volunteer who has been on the council's Risk Assessment Course.

## **Risk Assessments / Task Day Registration**

Volunteers who can lead tasks are Terry, Patrick, Mick, Mark, Gill and Micaela.

The next RA course is expected to be a Thursday towards the end of April, which would probably be either 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully Bernard, Lorraine, Adrian and Bob will be able to attend. Mark will advise when firm details are provided.

Task Days up to and including 28 June 2014 are now registered and approved.

## **First Aid Kit**

An HSE approved First Aid Kit for medium groups of 10-20 persons and an Eye-Wash Kit has been obtained for £33.42. It is currently stored in the Mess Room Locker.

## **Task Day Clothing**

Prices for Hi-Vis vests in orange or yellow with "Friends of Marple Memorial Park" printed on the back are £6.12 each, or they are available in any colour for slightly more. It was agreed to order 10 yellow ones to start with in a range of sizes. *(Post meeting note: 10 vests ordered at a cost of £69.59 including delivery.)*

Embroidered baseball caps are available from £7.14 each with a £25 set-up fee. It was agreed that there was not enough interest in these to proceed.

## **SSK Support for Task Days**

The Greenspace Forum minutes of a meeting held recently with SMBC record that "the council has declined to enter into a meaningful discussion on this issue".

The Forum has written to Leader of the Council Sue Derbyshire, who has promised a response "within a few days". We will look out for this with great interest.

## **Allotment Association Bed**

The Allotment Association has published a set of minutes firming up their plans for this year and confirming that they will align their task days with our own.

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

The group's accounts for year ending 31 December 2013 have now been audited by the McInnes Partnership and are ready for the AGM next month.

Balance on last statement for 21 February 2014 is £14,858.24

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

£19.20	Local Giving.
£100.00	Marple Mini / Youth Rugby Club.
£100.00	The Brass Bands of Marple.
£50.00	Marple Civic Society.
£181.00	The Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights.
£14.00	Collected in the Park.

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

£150.00	Crown repairs (Wayne Chaisty).
£150.00	Coping repairs (GT Landscapes).
£9.70	Gold spray-paint for Crown.
£16.50	Chicken Pellets, 6 x hand trowels, 3 x bags of compost for seedlings.
£8.97	9 pairs of ladies gardening gloves.
£8.75	5 packs of seeds.
£33.42	First Aid Kit and Eye Wash Kit.
£21.49	5L tin of "Summer Tan" wood preservative.

Committed funds in account are: Jubilee Project £24 and the Skate Park Fund £14,368, leaving a working balance of £462.

Patrick still has a number of items to put receipts in for and was urged to do this.

Funding raised this year to date is £1,364 with the total raised directly for the park by the group since it formed in 2003 now standing at £54,131.

## **5.0 Any Other Business**

### **5.1 Bowling Green Steps**

Still waiting for action from the council on this. This item will be left as a reminder until the work has been done.

### **5.2 Street Lights not working**

After nagging since November last year light number 24 (now 12) has been connected to the power supply and is working for the first time since it was originally installed.

Repair to light number 28 (now 16) was witnessed by Jane Bardsley and Mark recently. This was the first time that the street lighting team has visited the correct light since the problem was reported in November last year.

### **5.3 Stump Grinding & Oak Tree near Cinema**

This work has now been issued to the council's contractor but they are still working through a list of emergency storm damage, so it may be a while before it is done.

### **5.4 Sponsored Flowerbed Plaques**

Mark has investigated the cost of engraved stepping stones and a variety of other options for purchasing commemorative plaques and they are all coming out at over £100 each – ideally we need something cheaper than this.

Terry will have a look at what he can make from low cost materials.

Anne suggested having a look at plaques from the Key Cutting Shop.

### **5.5 Easter Egg Hunt**

Micaela highlighted an article from the Stockport Express about an Easter Egg Hunt, suggesting it as a possible project for next year.

### **6.0 Date of next Meeting (AGM)**

Monday 14 April 2014 at 6pm in Marple Library.

### **Meeting dates scheduled for 2014 (library booked):**

14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November and 8 December 2014.



**Skate Park Development Project Meeting  
Monday 27 February 2014  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Lewis Abbott, (Skate Park User), Graham Clarke (Marple Vision Partnership), Richard Booker (Council), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP).

**1.0 Absent/Apologies:** Ben Meek, Jason Saenz (Skate Park Users).

**2.0 Fund Raising Status**

Community Fund raising continues to go very well and the following contributions have been received since the last meeting on 3 February:

£100 from The Brass Bands of Marple, whose new home is in the park.  
£117.50 (via localgiving incl Gift Aid) from Bands' Secretary Sue Emery.  
£100 from Marple Mini / Youth Rugby Club.  
£50 Pledged by Marple Civic Society (*PMN: now received*)  
£112 from two out of three Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights (third quiz this evening).

This brings Community Funding figures at present to a total of £16,276 raised, less expenditure of £1,909 leaving a balance of £14,366. Excluding the Co-Op grant of £1,700 this gives us a match funding pot of £12,666 against the target of £20,000.

Mark has emailed the Co-Op Fund to ask when we can expect a decision on the purpose of their grant of £1,700, which we hope to put towards match funding for the project. (*PMN: This will be reviewed at a Co-Op Committee meeting in mid-March.*)

Romiley and Marple Lions say they hope to make a contribution in April.

Marple Business Forum has said that their committee will consider making a contribution once they have set their budgets for the next financial year.

Marple Fire Fighters have said they may do a Car Wash in support later in the year.

Local Artist Sarah Morley is to hold an exhibition in Marple Library 15 to 29 March that will publicise and help raise funds for the project. The theme of the exhibition is Stockport Parks and was inspired by the consultations on council cuts last year.

Inkbox of Marple, on Market Street, will donate the proceeds of the collection box in their shop between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> May and will also match donations.

Jason was not able to attend the meeting to give an update on his discussions with Moss Bank Housing Association or the ideas being developed with Simon at Woodstock Pizza / Marple Tavern about a community event involving cycling on the Middlewood Way to raise funds. An article about the Marple Tavern in enterprise deals & ideas magazine was discussed and Mark agreed get in touch with Simon about this.

**3.0 Letters of Support**

Since the last meeting letters of support have been received from:

The Rotary Club of Marple and Goyt Valley; Ludworth and Mellor WI; Marple Carnival Committee; Marple Athletic JFC; The Brass Bands of Marple and Marple Mini / Youth Rugby Club.

**Richard** will follow up his request to Life Leisure (Marple Fitness Centre) and Exec Member Cllr Stuart Bodsworth.

**Graham** will follow up with Marple Hall School, Marple Vision Partnership and All Saints' School and **Mark** with as many others as possible.

#### **4.0 Planning Permission**

Richard has prepared a Planning in Principle application but has spoken to Veolia who have said that Full Planning Permission will be required before we can submit a grant application. We won't be able to do a full application until we have an agreed design after we've nominated a contractor, so Richard will ask the planners if there is any advantage to be gained by proceeding with the "in Principle" application at this time.

Veolia have also advised that we will need to submit a new expression of interest. We need to establish the best point in time to do this.

#### **5.0 Procurement Strategy / Re-tendering**

Richard and the procurement officer have prepared a first draft tender document. This was discussed and will be distributed for further comment. The tender will seek creative and innovative designs for a set budget of £90,000. The tender submissions will be judged on quality and compliance with key requirements of the design brief using a set scoring system that will be identified in the tender. Stakeholders and skatepark users will be involved as much as possible with the scoring of the designs.

Tenders will be invited using the on-line "Chest" system. Mark expressed concern that this looks very new to Stockport Council and skatepark contractors will need to be made aware of the opportunity – they won't just find it. **Richard** will issue a list of known companies who could be invited to bid for review and comment by everyone.

It was agreed to target issue of the tender by the end of March. **Mark** will draft a schedule to look at how the procurement process and planning application fits in with the Veolia Trust's application closure dates and board meetings.

**Richard** will discuss with Streetlighting the opportunities for modifying the existing lights and how easy it will be to move the one in the grass bank.

#### **6.0 Marple Hall School / Young Skatepark Users**

It was agreed that we should meet with Marple Hall School before the tender goes out to tell them how we are progressing, to get their thoughts on the design brief and explain how we hope they will be involved in the tender reviews.

**Graham** will try to arrange a meeting for 11<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> March. It will probably be around 3pm immediately after school. *(PMN: 17<sup>th</sup> March is most likely – to be confirmed.)*

#### **7.0 Next Meeting**

Thursday 20 March 2014 at Marple Library.