

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 13th March 2017
Marple Library**

Present: Mick Thompson, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Joyce Reed, Mark Whittaker, Part-time: Cllr. Malcolm Allan, Cllr Geoff Abel.

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Lorraine Thompson, Patrick O'Herlihy.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Better Football Provision

Additional Goalposts: currently the park is so waterlogged that it is not practical to do anything yet. The surplus goalposts are still available and Wayne has sent some photos. When the park dries out we can hopefully agree where they can go.

Long-term improvements: Canvas Spaces have been asked to prepare a design for the top section of the skatepark and to include a visual of the improvements to the basketball area, turning it into a MUGA, in order to help us with funding applications.

Richard Booker has also been asked to provide budget prices for conversion to a MUGA so that we can begin to investigate suitable grant schemes.

3.2 Fencing of Bowling Green

The contractor appointed is called Landscape Engineering Ltd. and Richard is trying to set up a pre-construction meeting with them in the near future.

3.3 Play Areas and Play Equipment

Infants Play Area Improvements

The chime unit on the musical pirate ship was removed by the council on 17 February because sharp screws had become exposed making it unsafe.

The supplier has been instructed to collect the unit and has been asked to replace the plastic caps with a fit-for-purpose design. They were advised that it was ready for pick up on 1st March and they were due to collect last Thursday.

(Post meeting note: the unit has been satisfactorily repaired and reinstalled. The drum-stick on a rope has also been modified and now reaches all the chimes.)

Infants Play Area Gates

Installation was due to start this month but SSK have been delayed. Richard is due to meet with them soon to obtain an update on when the work will be done.

3.4 Park Attendant

Cllr Allan did not receive an acknowledgement to his initial letter to Ian O'Donnell so he has written to the next person up the chain of command and an acknowledgement has now arrived. Cllr. Allan will chase up a reply if one is not received soon.

3.5 Park Benches

Terry will bring the repaired picnic bench to the park on Thursday 23rd March and we can place it in store under the bowling pavilion canopy until the 25th March task day, when it is planned to complete the installation.

Mark has obtained prices from Streetmaster to replace the slats on the old Woodville benches but is waiting for them to answer some queries.

Terry has obtained costs for obtaining 5 x Iroko or European Oak slats from the supplier he has used before at £234.29+VAT and £301.42+VAT respectively. This is not as good as the prices obtained on-line of £132 for Oak, £129 for Ash and £132 for Mahogany plus £50 delivery (but with a minimum order value of £200).

Mark will contact the three potential sponsors when details are clear.

Terry's cousin may be interested in refurbishing a bench too.

(Post meeting note: details have now been passed to potential sponsors).

3.6 Town Centre Benches

Last one on Market St and the Hollins benches to be followed up in the spring.

A dialogue has been started with the council's Highways Team about replacing the bench at Possett Bridge with one sponsored by Monty Burton's family.

3.7 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

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

New halyard has still to be fitted to the flagpole.

It was agreed that the bowling green buildings are due for repainting.

3.9 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

We've received a further £205 via the Grow Your Tenner scheme. There is around £140 still to come in and nine direct debits are still live.

Funding is now £51,157 plus £50,000 match-funding.

Life Leisure has confirmed that they will grant a community funding award to pay £11,750 for the lower section of the existing skatepark to be concreted. We are waiting for Canvas to formally confirm acceptance and an amendment order to be placed. We also need to agree publicity details with Life Leisure before we announce this. *(PMN: the following statement was agreed and released on 19 March 2017:*

Before Christmas the Skatepark Team and the Council became concerned about the condition of the old tarmac on the lower level of the existing skatepark. In recent months it had started to break-up in places and we were worried that it would deteriorate quickly once the new skatepark was built and it was receiving even more visitors than before. We spoke to the contractor about concreting this section during the current construction phase and learned that it would cost just under £12,000 more.

This level of extra fund-raising was beyond our means at such short-notice but we were delighted that when we told Life Leisure Stockport about it they came to our aid with a community funding award for the extra money we needed. The extra funding is a fantastic boost to the project as it means the lower section of the skatepark will be fully integrated with the new extended area and it will alleviate potentially difficult maintenance problems that were likely to arise in the future.

We would like to thank Life Leisure for stepping in at such short notice and recognising the project's importance to the local community. We're also pleased to report that this extra work is now under-way.)

Skatepark Construction

Work is progressing well and is expected to be finished early to programme.

A lamppost had to be moved because it was in a different place to the drawings and it clashed with the poppy feature. Street Lighted responded very quickly.

We are waiting to get the steel benches off-site for blasting and priming.

The council have said they will install artificial grass in certain areas where mowing will be difficult when they do the landscaping.

The council will look at repairs to the main pathway that has been damaged by heavy lorries coming into the park once the construction is completed.

We now need to think about a launch event.

3.10 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

George Taylor and Clarence Byrom were added on 1st and 2nd of March respectively. Next up are Edward Yarwood on 23rd and John Hallam on 25th March.

We haven't heard anything from Ian Hilton yet on the projects we suggested the Senior Citizens may wish to support, so Mark will chase this up.

(Post meeting note: Ian has emailed to say that he has not been Chair for over a year [our mistake] but did put our proposals to the committee. Subsequently he received a letter saying "MSCA have already donated a bench and decline the request".)

WW2 Plaque

Anne's film is ongoing, and she has arranged a shoot for Sunday 26th March.

Terry suggested asking Julie Clay about the enamel warship week plaque.

War Memorial Registration and Survey Workshop

We have still to apply for statutory listing of the war memorial.

3.11 Task Days

Last Task Day – 25 February 2017

More Red Robin shrubs and a climbing rose donated by Mick and Lorraine have been transplanted to the park and ivy was removed from the band room wall.

Next Task Days – 25 March, 15 and 29 April 2017

Parking is arranged and emails will be sent out nearer the time.

The picnic bench will be reinstalled.

Co-Op staff have said that they would like to join us on our next task day.

15 April is the first mid-month task day of the year.

Julian Wadden will join us for the Family Treasure Hunt on 29 April.

Di Jackson is organising sponsors and raffle prizes.

The event application has been submitted and approved.

Micaela will cover first aid requirements.

We will need volunteers to manage the stall.

27 May Task Day

Mark and Gill will not be able to attend, so Bernard will take the lead and Bob agreed to support if he's there. We can agree tasks nearer the time.

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments

Everything is up-to-date and we are covered until 30 June 2017.

Mark would still like to prepare a refresher document for Task Leaders. (*Post meeting note: refresher pack issued to Task Leaders on 21 March 2017.*)

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2017

25 March, 15 & 29 April, 13 & 27 May, 10 & 24 June, 15 & 29 July, 12 & 26 August, 16 & 30 September, 14 & 28 October, 11 & 25 November, 30 December.

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.

Power Tools

No change.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Current bank balance is £51,652.63.

Income since last meeting includes:

£205.52 Local Giving.
£15.00 Bandroom standing order.

Expenditure since last meeting = Nil

Income year to date is £1,039.87.

Income total is now £99,791.78 and with £25 cash to pay in from park collections plus £200 from Stockport Hydro this month we will pass the milestone of £100,000 raised!

Spent this year to date is £143.22.

Committed funds in account are: Skatepark £50,157, WWI Display £128 and Town Centre Benches £28. This leaves a working balance of £339.52, which doesn't include just over £25 cash still to be paid into the bank, or Malcolm's expenses for a new wheel for one of the wheelbarrows.

Year end accounts

Audit is complete and ready for the AGM.

Grant Applications and Funding Opportunities

The Stockport Hydro cheque for £200 towards Bee Friendly Plants was collected by Joyce and Ann on Friday 10th March during a presentation at the Hydro. Mark is due to meet with sponsor Sue Thorpe during the task day on 25th March.

We were planning to buy plants from Chelford Auctions but they have recently closed so we will need to find alternative suppliers giving good value for money.

We have been notified that we will receive a grant of £300 from Anchorpoint towards Bee Friendly Plants too, giving us a total budget of £500.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Future Projects

Our tentative future projects remain as listed below. As mentioned earlier, the Senior Citizens have declined to get involved in any of these:

- Better football provision.
- Exercise equipment.
- Replacement of Midnight Tree Sculpture.
- Turn WWI Timeline into a permanent display.
- Make park more bee friendly and colourful (now underway).
- Ongoing playground improvements (usually funded by commuted sums).
- Upgrade of Park Toilets.
- Overhaul of Sensory Garden.

5.2 Wheelbarrow repair

Malcolm has now submitted a £29.95 receipt for reimbursement.

5.3 Snowdrops in the Green

Joyce feels we could have many more snowdrops in the park. These are best planted "in the green" and she passed some research into costs to Mark. *(Post meeting note: Snowdrops are on the Bee Friendly list so 500 were ordered at a cost of £43.50 and planted during the 25 March task day. Funds will come from the Hydro grant.)*

5.4 Memorial Park Drive

Another discussion took place about the naming of the drive into the park. Mark will dig out the correspondence from c2010 and pass to Cllrs Abel and Allan.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 10 April 2017 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

(Post meeting note: it is proposed to delay the AGM until at least 8 May 2017.)

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2017 (library booked):

10 April, 8 May and 12 June 2017.