

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 14th November 2016
Marple Library**

Present: Mick Thompson, Adrian Ellis, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood,
Cllr. Geoff Abell, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Joyce Reed, Patrick O'Herlihy, Bob Wilson, Lorraine Thompson,
Cllr Malcolm Allan, Cllr Annette Finnie.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Consultation on better Football Provision

It's now two years since we asked the council to look into this issue.

Cllr. Allan has arranged a meeting with Ian Walmsley later in November to follow this and other issues up. In the meantime, Wayne Bardsley mentioned last week that he is now picking this job up and will share consultation material with us once prepared.

3.2 Possible fencing of Bowling Green

The Bowling Club's support and our own position of majority support for this proposal established at the last meeting was fed back to Richard Booker on 16 October.

The next step is a report by Greenspace that needs to go to the Executive for consideration / approval. This is waiting for the outcome of consultation currently ongoing for another site. Richard will keep us advised of progress.

3.4 Play Areas and Play Equipment

The order for the replacement play equipment has been placed with Groundworks and Leisure (who carried out the carpet overlay to the Infants Play Area recently).

Richard is waiting for a confirmed works schedule from the contractor before he can advise us of the timing of installation at the park.

The total order value is £11,824 (for replacement swings and a new "Play Ship" feature to replace the Wendy house, both with new safe surface surrounds). This will be taken from the park's currently allocated committed sums of £13,526, leaving a balance of £1,702 to build back up for future improvements.

3.5 Park Attendant

Cllr Allan has written to Head of Greenspace Ian O'Donnell with an account of what he has learned from the councillors involved when the Executive decision to maintain the budget for a full time attendant was agreed last March. He is seeking information about what has happened to the funds that were specifically approved for retention of a full time attendant, which hasn't actually happened.

It was noted 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 yet 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 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. It will be stored until next spring and installed in better weather.

One of the benches near the Bowling Green had been subjected to graffiti, so it was rubbed down and re-treated during a recent task day.

There has been an enquiry from the Parry family about adding another person to their existing commemorative bench. Mick and Mark have inspected the bench and feel a second plaque could be added, or the existing one revised. Terry offered to recess the wooden slat in his workshop if required. Mark will speak to the family.

3.7 Town Centre Benches

Plaques have been fitted to Samuel Oldknow, Wetton family, SVC Lighting & Electrical and Ardek Ltd sponsored benches and they are all complete.

Plaques for Carver Theatre and Munday family benches were ordered a couple of weeks ago at a cost of £73.85. They arrived today and will be fitted soon.

We've now fully refurbished 12 of the 13 benches on Market Street and Derby Way. We hope to do the remaining one and the four on the Hollins next year if we can find suitable sponsors. We may place a "sponsor needed" sign on the Market Street one.

(Post meeting note: a sponsor for the last Market St bench has now come forward.)

We've received sponsorship of £1,960 (plus donated paint from Harmony Decor) and spent £726.76 on plaques, tools and materials. We have previously transferred £450 to the skatepark project funding and now have a surplus of £783.24.

We have plenty of paint and preservative left over and it was agreed to transfer a further £750 of the surplus to the skatepark project, leaving a small pot of £33.24 allocated for any unforeseen costs when we continue next year.

This will mean that the bench refurbishments have contributed £1,200 to the skatepark project and will draw down the same amount of council match funding.

Thanks were given to Bernard, Mick, Patrick and Mark for their hard work on this. As well as making money for the park it has had a big impact on the Town Centre and we've received great feedback from the public while doing the work.

3.8 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

No changes. Myers Tree Care is 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

As mentioned above, £750 has been allocated from bench refurbishment income.

The art auction raised £856. Thank you to everyone who helped set-up during the day and on the evening too. Special thanks to Joyce and Steve Abbott for organising.

£424 income has been received so far from the Grow Your Tenner scheme. We have 12 regular donations set up plus 2 ongoing from last year. The final amount calculates to approximately £1,172 but will not be included in totals until it arrives in the bank.

We won the public vote in the William Wragg Charity of the Month competition for October and recently received a cheque for £400. William will visit the skatepark during next Saturday's task day to see how we're getting on.

Marple Tuesday Bridge Club has made a donation of £50.

£81 of miscellaneous donations have been received via Local Giving.

We've received a cheque for £39.60 from Robinson's Brewery for the Dizzy Blonde scheme run by the Ring o' Bells pub during July and August. Unfortunately it was made out wrongly so has been returned for a replacement.

ISWOK Boutique advise that they have raised £100 from a Fashion Sale and Tombola at Marple Cricket Club on 5th November (not yet received so not in figures below).

An application for a funding contribution has been submitted to the Asda Foundation with the support of Marple Asda manager Simon. The process normally take around 4 weeks, so we may hear the outcome before our Christmas collections in the store.

We await updated drawings from Canvas and hope to have a further meeting soon to ensure that we can start construction as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Skatepark Funding Update:

Target:	£100,000	
Community Funding:	£46,005	(growth of £2,561 since last meeting).
With match funding:	£92,009	
Balance needed:	£7,991	(reduced by £5,122 since last meeting).
We need to raise:	£3,995	(50% of balance).

Fund Raising Events:

Grow Your Tenner – Closes 28 November at Midday*

The Grow Your Tenner scheme is still open (**PMN: at the time of the meeting until 17 November, but now extended until Monday 28 November at midday*). There is still a considerable amount of match-funding left in their pot.

Christmas Collections at Asda 15 to 17 December

A good response has been received to the appeal for volunteers to help with the collections. A draft copy of the rota was handed out at the meeting and this will be sent out by email seeking people to fill the gaps later this week.

Mark will meet with Simon on Friday to ensure he has everything he needs from us.

A pop-up display needs to be designed and ordered.

It's planned to do Guess the Sweets on Thurs/Friday and Hamper Raffle on Saturday.

3.10 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

Dennis Hall was added on 14 October and Bernard Hartley on 4 November. It's now "quiet" over the Christmas period with no further Marple losses until 25 January.

We are now roughly halfway through in time but with 45 of 141 men added to date, not quite a third of the way through in numbers.

It was rewarding to see pupils from Brabyns Preparatory School and All Saints' School visiting the timeline on Armistice Day and many people reading it on Sunday.

It is proposed to investigate how we could turn the timeline into a permanent display.

WW2 Plaque

The college said that they would put details of the missing plaque in their staff bulletin but we've had no feedback so Mark has chased this up to see if there's any progress.

Anne and Mark have had a meeting with Marple Local History to discuss further research for a short film that Anne would like to do about the Warship Week.

War Memorial Registration and Survey Workshop

Anne attended the workshop on behalf of the group and has passed the information pack onto Mark, who will attend the follow-up meeting on Friday 18 November.

Registration and surveys have been done on the main War Memorial, the Bowling Pavilion and Danny Winter's bench. There are some issues with the War Memorials Online web site and Mark will raise these at the follow-up meeting.

The overall survey conditions were recorded as:

War Memorial – Fair – some issues with stonework pointing and metalwork.

Bowling Pavilion – Fair – minor building maintenance issues.

Danny Winter Bench – Good – no issues.

3.11 Task Days

Last Task Days – 15, 29 October & 12 November 2016

Focused mainly on getting the park in the best possible shape for the Remembrance Service. The council has also been helpful by cleaning the flagpoles for us and assisting with clearance of leaves.

A small amount of work was also done on 11th November.

Next Task Days – 26 November & 31 December 2016

26 November and 31 December are registered and approved. We will decide nearer the time if anyone wants to do the December task day.

Mark will arrange parking and send out task day emails around a week in advance.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2016

Approved: 26 November and 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.

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. Cllr Abell advised that this has recently moved back in-house from SSK.

Power Tools

No change.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Latest statement dated 21 October 2016 shows a bank balance of £45,703.18

Income since last meeting includes:

£81.00 Miscellaneous Local Giving
£160.00 Bench sponsorship from Munday family.

£160.00 Bench sponsorship from Carver Theatre.
£856.00 Art Auction.
£50.00 Marple Tuesday Bridge Club.
£45.00 Charles Ingham Bandroom (catch-up on missing standing orders).
£424.00 Grow Your Tenner payments received since 18 October.
£400.00 William Wragg Charity of the Month.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£73.85 Carver Theatre and Munday family bench plaques.
£4.60 Wood filler.
£3.75 Replacement glass for picture broken during auction.
£4.00 Heathers for Danny Winter pots.
£25.00 Poppy Wreath.
£10.00 St Martins Christmas Tree Festival donation.

Income this year to date is now £19,753 and income total is £94,371.

Spent year to date is £5,014.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park £46,005, WWI Display £128 and Town Centre Benches £33. This leaves a working balance of £285, which doesn't include approximately £60 cash collected in the park and still to be paid into the bank.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Roman Lakes Tea Dance: 26 November

18 places are all booked and paid for. Event starts at 5.30pm, finishes approx 9pm. Attendees should bring their own alcohol, nibbles and arrange own transport.

5.2 Wreath / Remembrance Service

The poppy wreath was purchased for £25 and laid by Terry during yesterday's Remembrance Service. The park looked great and Mark has written to thank Greenspace and SSK attendants for their support in achieving this.

5.3 Christmas Tree Festival

Joyce has been busy knitting Santa hats and scarves. Terry has been making wooden skateboards, which were passed over for Gill at the meeting. Gill, Micaela and Lorraine to arrange a convenient date / time to have a trial assembly of the tree.

The actual set-up is on Thursday 1st December between 10am-12 noon or 2pm-5pm.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 12 December 2016 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2016/17 (library booked):

12 December 2016.

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