

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 15th October 2007  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Dave Burrows (Acting Chair), Peter Bardsley, Robert Wilson, Jay Havoleana, Micaela Wood, Rebecca Nedeljkovic, Brian Pendlebury, Cllr. Andrew Bispham, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Chris Armit, Bill Ardern.

**2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Micaela's suggestion to seek sponsorship from Whyvale Garden Centre was omitted. This is a good idea and Mark will write to them.

**3.0 Matters Arising.**

**3.1 BBC Breathing Places Reading Area  
Tree Work**

Jim McGarrie has provided an email response to the group's concerns about the extra tree work carried out and to the complaints received from Dr. Manton and Mr. Roberts.

The response makes it clear that the extra work is not associated with the Breathing Places project, which only included the removal of one small tree and the crown lifting of four others. The rest of the work is cited as being programmed for the past two years, although it does not correspond to the tree management plan that was provided to the group when the Breathing Places grant application was made. The response also cites health and safety as reasons for doing the extra work.

The Friends remain disappointed with the extra work done, which is not described on the management plan they were given, and in particular the lack of consultation with themselves and the owners of the properties bordering the woodland. This has resulted in the work being incorrectly associated with the Breathing Places project and put this at risk due to the complaints received from residents.

Mark will forward the response to Dr. Manton and Mr. Roberts, explaining that the work was not part of the Breathing Places project and seeking their support for its continuation. It will be suggested that if the response does not fully address their concerns then these should be taken up directly with the council's tree section.

Dave advised that he understood Henry Campbell-Ricketts has developed a re-planting plan for the area, although he did not have any details. Mark will include this information when forwarding the response onwards.

It was agreed that the group should advise the Big Lottery Fund of what has happened and give them the opportunity to confirm whether they wish the project to continue. Mark will write to the BLF after receiving feedback from Dr. Manton and Mr. Roberts on the response from Jim McGarrie.

*(Post meeting note: Dr. Manton has confirmed by email his support for the project to continue and that he will be writing to the tree section regarding his concerns over the extra work done. Mr. Roberts has confirmed by telephone his support for the project continuing providing that additional planting is done to screen the library from the properties on Parkfield Avenue. He will also be contacting the tree section directly about this. Mark has written to the BLF Project Officer to explain the situation and a response is awaited.)*

### **Landscape Work**

The landscape works has been placed on hold pending a response from the Big Lottery Fund on the tree work situation. Rebecca does not anticipate any problems with the contractor due to the delay.

### **Sculpture**

Work currently scheduled for December.

### **Interpretation Board**

The artwork and ordering of the board will be done later in the project.

### **Bird & Bat Boxes**

Mr. Griffiths of the High Peak RSPB group has spoken to Mark about the project and has agreed to review the woodland area and then get in touch again to give advice about the placing of additional bird boxes.

The Bat Conservation Trust are still trying to find a local representative who would be able to come and talk to us about the best ways to attract bats to the woodland area. As this is taking some time Dave will also seek the advice of Wayne Bardsley at Etherow Park.

Dave has already contacted Wayne for about carrying out a bird survey and this could possibly be undertaken as part of a future task day.

### **Hedge Packs**

Planting of hedgerows by the Beavers is scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> November Task Day, providing the hedge packs are delivered in time by the Woodland Trust. The hedgerow planting can go ahead even if the Breathing Places project is cancelled and will help with the screening.

A small amount of preparatory work will be needed before the planting is carried out. Dave and Bob still need to discuss this.

### **Other Breathing Place matters**

An update on the project has still to be provided to BBC Breathing Places and will be done after the BLF have responded to the enquiry about the project continuing.

### **3.2 Teen Rotator**

The missing part is still outstanding. Dave will ask Gareth of Playground Maintenance for an update.

*(Post meeting note: Part has arrived and installation is anticipated within the next couple of weeks, as soon as the contractor can fit it in.)*

### **3.3 Basketball Court**

Planning permission for the basketball court fence has been granted.

Rebecca will provide an update on the costs. Opportunities to fund this will be investigated once the Infants Play Area is finalised.

### **3.4 Beech Tree Sculpture**

Andrew Frost has now created seven ground sculptures from the limbs of the tree. These are currently located at the Brabyns Park depot and need to be sanded, stained and installed. Mark will contact Andrew about when he can return again to do the sanding as we have now gone beyond the timescales provided in the Voluntary Arts Grant application and will need to submit a report once the work is completed.

Bob will confirm the maintenance regime for the sculptures with Andrew.

*(Post meeting note: Andrew is due to return week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> October to complete the sanding of the sculptures.)*

### **3.5 Lock 17 Flowerbed**

The Park Team successfully completed the landscaping works in good time and the planting up during the Task Day on 29<sup>th</sup> September was well attended by members of the group, Marple Locks Heritage Society and Churches Together. Gordon Mills' widow Barbara and their son Stuart and his family attended during the planting and were very pleased with the display.

A dedication plaque now needs to be organised and Mark will discuss this with Peter Clarke, as the Locks Society have the funds for this. It is hoped that a plaque can be unveiled during December. It is also planned to add number "17s" to the replica lock beams.

### **3.6 Replica Memorial Stone**

The memorial stone has been delivered earlier than expected – Rebecca has passed it over to Mark this evening. This means it could be installed before Remembrance Day, which would provide a fitting opportunity for an unveiling ceremony.

Dave expressed concern that if the shelter / shed was listed we may need approval for the installation from Paul Hartley the Conservation Officer. Mark will check with Paul and seek his approval if it is required. Dave will make arrangements for the installation with Tony Donovan as soon a response from Paul is received.

Rebecca will issue an invoice for the stone that the group can make payment against to the council.

*(Post meeting note: Paul has advised that the shelter / shed is not listed and confirmed his support for the stone to be installed on the end gable above the double doors. The stone is now at the Brabyns Depot and Mark and Adrian have agreed on the exact location it will be sited).*

### **3.7 Infants Play Area**

Playdale have provided an updated price for the revised scheme that removes the wavy and musical panels and adds the larger roundabout. Rebecca has issued enquiries to two other contractors for the supply and installation of the Playdale equipment and these are awaited.

There has been a suggestion from Playground Maintenance that the small roofs of the "Bombay" unit should be omitted. The group discussed this and it was agreed that the roofs should be installed.

With £1,000 to be donated from the Marple Website calendar sales, £1,000 committed by the Friends and the substantial contribution from the council sufficient funds are in place to cover the costs.

If enough money can be saved by carrying out the removal of the bark chippings and the brick edging and / or additional funds can be raised it will be possible to replace the existing benches and play table too.

Removal of the bark chippings by the Probation Service is progressing well, although Dave is less certain that the brick edging can be removed in good time.

Brabyns Preparatory School has been in touch again about their proposal for a sponsored bounce to raise funds for the equipment and this is to go ahead. Mark has provided the school with displays about the proposals that will be shown to parents during open days this week and it is hoped this will help achieve a good response.

### **3.8 Boules Court.**

Dave handed round a sheet detailing the standard dimensions for a Boules Court for discussion. The site next to the Bowling Green (the other side of the hedge near the main path) was agreed as a good location but the dimensions will be marked out for review before making a final decision.

Cllr. Bispham advised that he felt the addition of a Boules Court in the park was an idea that Councillors would be able to support.

### **3.9 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Day – 29 September**

As already mentioned, the Lock 17 planting up was a great success. In addition the Probation Service were in attendance removing bark chippings from the Infants Play Area. This caused concern for the supervisors of the YOT, who also attended but decided not to stay.

Brian Pendlebury explained why it was not a good idea for the Probation Service and the YOT to work in close proximity and asked for completely separate tasks to be made available on future task days if the Probation Service were to be in attendance in the park.

Brian added that the kids who have attended the task days in the past have fed back that they enjoyed them and that they were pleased to be treated normally. It was agreed that the YOT would schedule their continued attendance at future task days based on the last Saturday of each month.

The issue of Child Protection Policies and CRB checks was briefly covered again. Brian advised that help may be available from the Voluntary Services based on Underbank.

#### **Next Task Day – 27 October**

The next task day will include the Tree Planting Event funded by the Woodland Trust. It is hoped that there will be a good turn out, as there has been extended publicity and quite a lot of interest.

Dave will be providing a large number of bulbs and if the trees run out quickly then these can be planted too.

Jacky Budd has confirmed that the order for the trees is in place. The group will need an invoice for these soon after the event so that it can be paid and a report provided to the Woodland Trust.

It was agreed that the area near Garth Road should be reviewed and marked out so that there is a plan for the spacing / location of the trees. The wildlife area near the cinema could be more random and worked out on the day if necessary.

#### **War Memorial Flowerbeds**

Dave handed round a proposed planting list for the war memorial beds. Adrian will draw up the scheme to formalise the work to be done based on this. The front edges of the beds will be planted with bedding plants.

### **Car parking during task days**

Cllr. Alexander kindly picked up on the issue of car parking during task days from the last minutes and arranged for the Friends to have 6 free spaces for the 29<sup>th</sup> September task day. Cllr. Alexander believed this to be a long-term arrangement and asked Mark to advise Steve Thompson of the dates for future task days in order to be provided with passes for these too.

Mark has done this for the task days in October and November but has received a reply from Steve Thompson saying that the arrangements were an emergency one-off and not long-term.

Mark has forwarded Steve Thompson's reply to Cllr. Alexander in the hope that she will be able to resolve the misunderstanding that appears to have occurred.

### **3.10 Fundraising Activities**

Next fundraising events are the Marple "Christmas Cracker" on 1<sup>st</sup> December and Marple Bridge "Winter Wonderland" on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

The group plan to have a tombola at both events and Micaela is in the process of distributing letters to local shops and businesses requesting donation of tombola prizes. This is going well at present.

### **3.11 Park Cottage**

The visit by prospective users of the park cottage on 2<sup>nd</sup> October was cancelled. David Brayshay is continuing to seek people interested in using the facilities provided by the cottage in an acceptable way and Tony Donovan has been getting prices for the work required to bring it back to serviceable condition.

The group are pleased that the council are continuing to seek a productive use for the cottage despite the difficulties involved.

### **3.12 Park maintenance activities**

Dave will chase up Tony Donovan for a schedule / programme of the maintenance work agreed in the park. The group are not wishing to apply pressure to this work but would like to know when it can reasonably be expected to occur.

### **3.14 Status of Funds**

Current bank balance:	£10,841	
<b>Committed Funds:</b>	£9,884	
Breathing Places		£6,945
Tree Sculpture		£1,358
Memorial Stone & plaques		£500
Tree Planting Event		£100
Raised for Play Area		£981
Working balance:	£957	

Income since the last meeting includes a donation of £100 from Marple Carnival Committee towards the Infants Play Equipment presented at an award ceremony on 12<sup>th</sup> October. The group thanked the committee for their generosity. The £100 grant from the Woodland Trust for the Tree Planting Event has also been received.

#### **4.0 Monthly Park Report**

Bob advised that general maintenance was continuing and that he was also training some youngsters on work experience.

#### **4.1 Students misusing the play equipment**

Due to running out of time before the library closed at 8pm this issue was not discussed at length. Briefly:

Mark has emailed Cllr. Alexander, who was going to pass on the details to the college. Mark has also spoken to Cllr. Ingham about the problems at the Saturday morning surgery.

Bob has spoken to the Community Police and received a commitment to help but this has not yet materialised and they have not had a significant presence in the park since it was discussed with them.

Bob is hopeful that installation of the Teen Rotator will ease the problem by attracting the students to the skate park area.

#### **5.0 Any Other Business**

##### **5.1 Laying of wreath**

It was agreed that Mark would lay a wreath on behalf of the Friends of the Park during the Remembrance Service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

##### **5.2 Friends' Christmas Dinner**

Micaela took deposits and menu selections for the group's Christmas Dinner at the Ring o' Bells. This will be at 7pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November and will cost £11.95 a head.

##### **5.3 Next meeting start time**

It was agreed to start the next meeting half an hour earlier at 6pm because we are now regularly running out of time to discuss everything fully before the library closes at 8pm.

#### **6.0 Date of next Meeting**

Monday 12 November 2007 at **6pm** in Marple Library.

#### **List of reminders:**

Write to Wyvale Garden Centre regarding sponsorship.  
Spring task – jest wash and oil the log bench.