

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 9th February 2009
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Dave Burrows, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Sandra Ellis, Jonathon Long.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 BBC Breathing Places Reading Area

A letter has now been received from the BIG Lottery Fund confirming their agreement that the project is complete.

The only outstanding matter is payment of £915 for the interpretation board. This money is available and an invoice is awaited from Rebecca so that it can be paid.

3.2 Basketball Court Fence

The fencing around two sides of the court and the slope down to the teen area have been completed. The group are very pleased with the result and a new page has been added to the web site about the project.

Micaela and Terry have consulted with some teenagers using the court and they responded very positively. They did identify that there is a particularly bad pothole in one area that needs attention. Bob also advised that there were a couple of the fence posts that appeared to be loose. Mark will raise these issues with Rebecca. *(Post meeting note: Rebecca arranged for the contractor to return and the loose posts have been fixed and the pothole filled in free of charge.)*

It was agreed that a longer-term objective would be to resurface the basketball court and have it properly marked out.

Adrian and Mark fitted a new pair of chain nets last Saturday and we have one spare left over. These cost £26 a pair and it was agreed that if they didn't last a reasonable time we should try cheaper cord nets instead in the future.

Rebecca has advised that there is a small cost saving on the project, although she has not yet provided figures. *(Post meeting note: The group will only need to contribute £192 instead of the £433 expected, a saving of £241 against the funds set aside.)*

3.3 Infants Play Area

Replacement Graphics

An order has been placed but the work is still outstanding.

Playground Sign

Playground Maintenance staff have fitted the new sign provided by Andrew Frost. They've done a great job and it looks very effective.

Apple & Pear Sculptures

Andrew has also delivered the replacement apple sculpture. It has proved to be worth the wait for the sign and apple and Mark will pass on the group's thanks to Andrew for supplying them free of charge.

The apple and pear can now be prepared for installation. It is proposed that they will go in the Infants Play Area but Adrian will need to consult with Gareth of Playground Maintenance first to ensure that he is happy with this. If not they will have to go elsewhere in the park.

It was agreed to target installation for the February Task Day if possible.

Roundabout

Gareth was due to have another meeting with Playdale regarding the performance of the roundabout. He has also obtained a price from a local firm to adapt it to run on a traditional spindle and bearing system. If he has no further joy with Playdale he will be speaking to his senior management and possibly ordering the modification to be undertaken.

(Post meeting note: The roundabout is now reported to be working properly, so Gareth has obviously found a successful solution.)

3.4 Boules Court.

Commemorative Seating

Three commemorative seats were ordered from Broxap on 21 January 2009. The proofs for the plaques were approved on 27 January and delivery was quoted as 3 weeks, so they should be available by the end of February if things go to schedule. The total cost is:

Supply & deliver 3 seats	£2,051
Installation (by Parks Team)	£330
Total	£2,381 (£794 each all in)

The cost has been funded as follows:

Donation from Mr. J. Louth	£1,000
Donation from Marple Civic Society	£750
Friends of the Park	£631
Total	£2,381

It was proposed that the seats should be installed along one side of the Boules court, between the court and the Bowling Green hedge. Adrian and Mark will agree the final locations when the seats are delivered.

Interpretation

Mark has asked Marple Business Forum if they would like to make a contribution towards the cost of an interpretation board for the Boules court. A response is awaited.

Compaction

Although compaction of the court was carried out last year it does not appear to have made much difference. Some alternative options for improving the playing surface were briefly discussed and this will need to be considered further.

3.5 War Memorial

Polishing of Memorial

Dave advised that the cost of polishing the two side stones on the war memorial would be between £600 and £700. The spraying option appears to have had very successful results at suppressing algae elsewhere and Dave is proposing to obtain a small container and try this out on our memorial and several others within the borough.

Memorial Rockery Scheme

Work is progressing on the preparation of the memorial beds ready for planting up with the new scheme. Soil conditioner has been going on and being worked in and the rocks have been rearranged. The plants are available at the nursery and planting will begin once preparation work is complete. It is possible that the college may help with the planting.

3.6 Task Days

Last Task Day – 31 January

A reasonable turnout with one new attendee saw the group relocating plants from the war memorial beds to other sites within the park.

Next Task Day – 28 February

The apple and pear sculptures may be installed if Adrian is able to make the necessary arrangements and there will be plenty of other tasks.

Mark will provide Micaela with 6 posters to distribute to local shops, submit the request for free parking and issue the email notification.

3.7 Bird Survey

Ian Hilton's third bird survey was distributed with the agenda. It was good to see that there were some sparrow spotted in the park this time and the group is looking forward to seeing the data from the surveys build into a bigger picture over time.

3.8 Park Cottage/ Band Room Proposals

Mark read out a report from Sue Emery describing the process that needs to be followed in order to achieve the bands' proposals to turn the cottage into a band room. In summary the steps are:

- 1 NPS to consult solicitors and draw up recommendations.
- 2 An executive paper to be published.
- 3 Local Area Committee to be informed.
- 4 If no adverse comments proceed to step 6.
- 5 If adverse comments received, proposals undergo scrutiny.
- 6 If proposals agreed, produce a draft lease.
- 7 Once funding is in place a lease can be signed.

The group wish the bands good luck with their proposals and look forward to the cottage being returned to life and put to good use in the community.

4.0 Fundraising Activities

A letter was distributed to local shops and businesses just before Christmas to say thank you for prizes contributed for the tombola.

Opportunities for tombolas this year include the Carnival, Locks Festival, Food Festival and Christmas Cracker. These have been great fund-raisers for the group but organising and manning the stall is demanding due to the small number of volunteers involved. It was felt that we would not be able to attend all these events unless more help became available. Mark advised that he was planning to take a break from the Marple Promotions stall this year and would only be able to offer minimal help setting things up. Micaela will consider what she wants to do but it was agreed that she must not feel pressured into taking it all on herself if other help cannot be found.

4.1 Status of Funds

Income since last month is £10.71 interest, £69.50 from the Ring o' Bells Quiz night on 7 January and £22 Football Competition donations. Expenditure was £25.85 on new basketball nets.

Current bank balance:	£5,021	
Committed Funds:	£3,541	
Breathing Places		£915
Basketball Fence		£192
Commemorative seating		£2,381
Sundial & Shuttle panels		£53
Working balance:	£1,480	

Mark advised that the McInnes Partnership have confirmed that they will audit the groups accounts for the year ending December 2008 so that we can hold the AGM in March. *(Post meeting note: The McInnes Partnership have now completed the audit of the accounts.)*

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob advised that his main area of work has been preparing the War Memorial beds, as already discussed.

With the Bowling season due to start again on 1st April it would soon be time for application of the spring and summer fertilizer.

Adrian also advised that Jacky Budd had in hand a spring planting scheme for the Lock 17 display on Oldknow Gardens. It would probably be planted out in April, after the War Memorial beds have been done.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Improvements to Towpath

Mark advised that British Waterways are going to be making improvements to the towpath between Stockport Road and Station Road for approximately two months, during which the towpath will be officially closed. The work, which is funded by Stockport Council, is not expected to start until after April and the diversion will be along St. Martin's Road.

Discussions are ongoing with regard to access for machinery and storage of materials but it is not expected to have a serious impact on the park.

6.2 Change of responsibilities

Dave advised that there have been organisational changes within the Parks and Recreation Team and he has been promoted to the position of Estates and Assets Manager for the borough. This includes responsibility for Playground Maintenance and Travellers.

Dave's previous responsibilities have been taken over by Jonathon Long, who is Area Manager East. Jonathon was unable to attend this meeting due to a prior engagement but hopes to come to the next one and either he or Adrian will continue to act as Chair whilst this role remains vacant.

6.3 Frequency of meetings

It was agreed to go ahead with the next scheduled meeting (the AGM) in March but we would probably miss the following one in April, which would need to be moved due to the Easter holidays. This will be confirmed at the AGM.

7.0 Date of next Meeting (AGM)

Monday 9th March 2009 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Friends of Marple Memorial Park – AGM

Venue: Marple Library

Date/Time: Monday 9th March 2009 6.00pm

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

3. Annual General Meeting

3.1. Chairman's Report

3.2. Treasurer's Report

3.3. Election of Officials:

3.3.1.1. Chairman

3.3.1.2. Treasurer

3.3.1.3. Secretary

3.3.1.4. Committee

4. Matters arising

List of reminders:

Outdoor Fitness Equipment.

Letter to Wyevale.

Re-painting of Coronation Bench.

Senior Citizens bench proposal.

Re-painting of Bowling Green buildings.

Plans for Park Entrance.