

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 8th February 2010
Marple Library**

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

1.0 Apologies: Jonathan Long, Peter Bardsley and Patrick O'Herlihy.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Roundabout in Infants Play Area

At the last meeting in November it was advised that an order for a new roundabout would be placed in March 2010 for work to start in April. As that time is now approaching Adrian will ask Jonathan to following this up with Gareth to confirm that it will be going ahead.

3.2 Treatment of Sculptures and Benches

It was agreed that the tree sculptures, Jim Heald's bench and the Boules Court benches would all benefit from another treatment with preservative. The sculptures will also benefit from jet washing again and Mark will ask Steve if he can bring his equipment for the next task day.

Adrian will make enquiries to find out when the other benches throughout the park are due for routine maintenance, as they are all looking rather deperate.

The BBC Breathing Places bird-box plaque on the side of the library and the wooden sections of the stocks are also in need of treatment. Mark will bring a ladder to the task day to reach the bird-box.

3.3 Boules Court.

The invoice for £790 for the Boules interpretation panel has still not been received. Both Mark and Adrian have sent Rebecca a reminder.

3.4 Improvements to the Park Entrance

A meeting was held with Jonathan Long during the January task day to discuss improvements to the park entrance. Jonathan's thoughts were focused mainly on the large shrub beds alongside the cinema and either side of the main pathway into the park. It was agreed to improve and develop these gradually over an extended period. It was also agreed to start with the one alongside the cinema providing it was confirmed as Parks and Recreation's responsibility to maintain. Adrian and Jonathan will investigate and confirm this.

During the on site discussions the group also identified to Jonathan that their own thoughts for improvements extended beyond the existing shrub beds and included the possible addition of a new feature bed and the moving and a tidying up a number of existing features.

The log bench is one of these as it is now past its best and needs to be removed. During the meeting it was decided that rather than drag the bench to an out of the way location the best solution would be to cut it up into smaller sections and transport it to the Breathing Places area behind the library to make a dead wood habitat for insects. Adrian will look into obtaining a suitable saw to cut the bench up.

Mark will investigate the costs of creating a replica of the Oldknow memorial plaque in All Saints' church tower to see if it would be affordable to make a feature of this in the proposed new bed. A housing would need to be designed in brick or stone if this were to become a viable project.

Micaela also passed on a suggestion from Terry that Thomas Carver should be commemorated in the park. Mark will make enquiries about how much it cost to create the Fanny Hudson display panel in Brabyns Park to see if that could be a suitable way to do this.

3.5 Task Days

Previous Task Day – 30 January 2010

A quiet turnout but great weather made for a good start to the task day year. After the meeting with Jonathan to discuss the entrance, the rose bed near to the bowling green was cleared as the roses had been well past their best for several years. The memorial beds were also tidied and Jim Heald's plaques on his bench polished up.

Next Task Day – 27 February 2010

Lots to do including starting work on the cinema shrub bed, cleaning tree sculptures and applying preservative to benches, the wood in the stocks and the Breathing Places bird-box plaque on the library.

Mark will submit the parking request, send the task day email and provide Micaela with some posters to distribute.

3.6 Bird Survey

A letter of thanks was sent to Ian Hilton on behalf of the group. Ian's latest bird survey was conducted in December / January and Adrian volunteered to summarise the findings of all the surveys to date on a spreadsheet for easy reference.

(A copy of the summary is appended to these minutes.)

3.7 Painting of Bowling Green Huts

It was reiterated that the group were prepared to provide the labour to paint the Bowling Green buildings if SMBC will provide the paint. It was agreed that the doors and woodwork etc should be painted black with white frames and Adrian will speak to Jonathan to confirm if he can supply the materials. If this is to go ahead the Bowling Green Club will be contacted to see if they would also like to provide volunteers.

3.8 Senior Citizens' Bench

Patrick has received a letter from the secretary of the Senior Citizens Association confirming that they are planning to discuss providing a bench that can be placed in a shaded area suitable for watching the Bowls. They expected to discuss it during a meeting at the end of January and we hope to learn details of what they would like to do soon.

3.9 Green Flag Award

The new Green Flag for 2009/10 was raised on Saturday 30 January.

Mark asked everyone to ensure they have voted for the park on the Green Flag web site. We are currently in 6th place with around 100 votes thanks to a campaign on the Marple Website but votes are now starting to tail off and we are losing touch with the leaders.

3.10 Funding of Projects by the District Partnership

Brian Nash is recovered from his ill health and is now back at work. Mark will ask Patrick if any guidance can be given regarding the kind of projects that the Partnership would be able to fund in the park.

3.11 Park Cottage

The planning application to turn the cottage into a band practice room for Marple Bands has been submitted and architect Phil Ingham has made a copy available to the group. It was registered on 14 January and the target date for a decision is 11 March 2010. Mark has registered the group's support for the plans on the council web site.

Sue Emery has provided an update on the lease negotiations, which appear to be progressing satisfactorily. Planning permission for change in use of the bands' site near to the Edge Restaurant for domestic dwellings is also expected to be submitted soon.

4 Fundraising Activities

4.1 Status of Funds

Current bank balance: £3,440

Committed Funds: £1,260

Working balance: £2,180

Income since the last meeting amounts to £754, including: £9.44 Commission from Marple Wine Club, £17 commission on DVDs and prints plus £8 from the Mellor Walking guide at the Christmas Cracker. A Green Space Development Grant of £470 has been awarded for purchase of tools and a donation of £250 received from Mr. Louth, the gentleman who funded one of the Boules Court seats in memory of his late wife.

There has been no expenditure in the same period but funds are committed for £790 on the Boules display panel and £470 for tools.

The group's accounts have been submitted to the McInnes Partnership for the annual audit in preparation for the AGM next month.

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob has Jordan, an apprentice through the "corporate parenting scheme", working with him until September. They have been working on re-edging the main path through the park and mulching beds recently.

Bob advised that the graffiti has now been removed from the park signs, bench and Boules display panel. Bob also identified that his graffiti removal tool kit has now virtually run out of materials and Adrian confirmed that a new kit could be provided. Mark will forward the photos taken of the graffiti during the last task day to Jonathan.

Bob is proposing to speak to Jacky Budd about obtaining some box hedging for around the Breathing Places circle and also some plants to replace the thorny roses in the same area, which are very child-unfriendly. The group were supportive of this idea.

Bob also advised that the area near to the old entrance to the council offices on the car park side was to be turned into a cycle stand.

Any Other Business

6.1 Social Events

Micaela was congratulated on her organising of the Christmas Dinner at the Hare & Hounds, Mill Brow, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

It was also agreed to have a Curry Night on the evening after the next task day on 27th February.

6.2 Naming of entrance road

Mark explained the farcical events following enquiries into the naming of the road, which now appears to be moving forward thanks to further action by Dave Burrows and the involvement of Cllr. Bispham. It has been made clear that the group would like the road to be named Warmsley Drive and hopefully this will be the eventual outcome after a consultation process with those effected by the change.

6.3 Marple Garden Centre

It was agreed to re-send the letter asking for support following the change of ownership from Wyevale to Marple Garden Centre.

7.0 Date of next Meeting (Annual General Meeting):

AGM Monday 8th March 2010 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Bird Survey Marple Memorial Park

Bird Name	5th Nov 08	22nd Nov 08	Dec-08	Feb-09	May/June 09	Oct-09	Dec/Jan 10
Wren	√		√	√	√	√	√
Robin	√		√	√	√	√	√
Mistle Thrush	√			√	√		√
Song Thrush							√
Crow	√	√		√			
Rook			√				√
Magpie	√	√		√	√	√	
Jackdaw	√	√		√	√	√	
Blackbird	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Starling	√	√	√	√		√	√
Hedge Sparrow			√		√		
House Sparrow			√	√		√	√
Redwings		√					√
Black Tit			√				
Great Tit			√	√	√	√	√
Blue Tit				√	√	√	√
Long Tail Tit						√	
Dunnock				√	√		
Feral Pigeon	√	√	√				√
Wood Pigeon				√	√		√
Collared Dove		√	√	√	√		√
Pied Flycatcher					√		
Pied Wagtail	√	√	√			√	
Goldfinch				√	√		
Greenfinch				√	√		
Chaffinch		√					
Buzzard					√		
Treecreeper						√	
Black Headed Gull	√	√	√	√		√	√
Mallard	√	√	√		√	√	√
Moorhen	√	√	√		√	√	√
Goosander			√				
Canada Goose			√				
Heron					√		