

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 11th February 2013
Marple Library

Present: Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Micaela Wood, Joyce Reed, Patrick O'Herlihy, Anne Frazer, Adrian Ellis, Lorraine Thompson, Mick Thompson, Rebecca Knowles, Jonathan Long, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: None.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Diamond Jubilee Project

Display Panel

Mark presented the design for the Jubilee Project display panel. Everyone was happy with this and Mark will arrange the order on Shelley Signs via Jonathan.

The cost of the panel is £725 + an estimated £35 for delivery = £760. We have £880 in the budget so this should free up another £120 that can be transferred to the budget for future planting of the flowerbed.

(Post meeting note: The order has been placed and the proof approved).

Future Planting

CAMSFC Horticultural Tutor Rebecca Knowles attended the meeting to discuss future planting of the Jubilee bed. We have £650 of funds donated to this project remaining that has been allocated to future planting (plus the surplus from the display panel).

Rebecca confirmed that she and her horticultural students would like to be involved in the ongoing planting and maintenance of the bed.

Options for the use of vegetables, seeds, bulbs, annuals and perennial plants were discussed and their merits considered. The following course of action was agreed:

The Friends will obtain Polyanthus plants to give a quick hit of colour between now and late spring. These can be transplanted to other locations in the park later.

(Post meeting note: 800 Polyanthus have been ordered for planting during the 23 February Task Day at a cost of £288).

Rebecca and her students will work up some schemes for spring / summer using plants and seeds and using bulbs for autumn / winter / early spring. The intention would be to plant bulbs in the autumn and then remove and store them each spring, when a new scheme can be developed and planted. Rebecca estimated they would be ready to plant a scheme for this summer by April or early May latest.

Mark asked if CAMSFC could make any further financial contribution to the project. Rebecca was doubtful about this but agreed to ask.

Patrick has been talking with the management of the new Dominoes Pizza and will ask them if they are interested in supporting this project, or anything else in the park.

3.2 Park Benches

Refurbishment of benches sponsored by Senior Citizens

The chains have been attached to the second bench and Terry and Patrick have completed the small repair to the first bench. All payments have been made and both benches are now complete apart from ongoing maintenance.

Refurbishment of bench near entrance sponsored by All Things Nice

The bench sponsored by All Things Nice was refurbished during the 5 January Task Day and looks great. The plaque has been paid for but an invoice for £100 to cover the supply of new hardwood slats via the David Lewis Centre is awaited from Terry.

Refurbishment of other benches

Jim Heald's bench, the Boules Court benches and the Ian Rice bench (near the towpath entrance at lock 12) will all be tackled as soon as weather permits.

A programme of re-treating all other benches will also begin when weather allows.

The council are due to install a new commemorative bench alongside the main pathway into the park in the near future. This will be a cast iron frame with brown metal slats and is expected to be virtually maintenance free. It is the only design that the council will accept now and will give us an example to show anyone who makes enquiries about new benches in the future.

Adrian and Jonathan were a little concerned about the location so Jonathan will contact Anthony Crook to highlight any issues that they may have.

Picnic Benches on the Recreation Ground

Patrick and Mark have looked into this further and have now agreed that the picnic benches should be refurbished, not replaced, as they are very substantial.

Patrick and Terry will make a more detailed inspection during the next Task Day to decide what materials are needed to carry out the refurbishment.

There is also a concrete framed bench of the same design as the Co-Op benches, which would need around £120 to refurbish it in the same way (without a plaque).

Once the situation is clear Patrick will hopefully be able to apply to Graeme Vout, the Town & District Centre Manager, for a small grant to cover the cost of the materials.

Maintenance Materials and Tools

A wish list has been issued to Jonathan following his offer to provide certain tools and materials for the group. He advised that he has received feedback that several of the items requested can't be supplied, although in most cases substitutes can be offered.

Jonathan will pass on the details so that the list can be finalised and orders placed.

It's planned to tidy the lock-up during the next task day, so Mark asked Jonathan if it would be possible to obtain the storage containers in time for 23 February.

(Post meeting note: Jonathan has passed on the feedback and Mark has responded with a revised list of requirements that the council will hopefully be happy to supply.)

3.3 Infants Play Area Fence

Painting of the Infants Play Area fence will be continued when the weather is suitable.

3.4 Treatment of Sculptures

Treatment of sculptures will also commence once the weather is suitable. Some of them will benefit from jet washing to get the green off and this can be done sooner.

3.5 Wildflowers & Bulbs

Joyce advised that she and several volunteers had been distributing seeds in various areas and hopefully we will see another good show of wildflowers this year.

The possibility of creating a meadow mix strip down by the canal entrance at Lock 10 was discussed but it was decided not to pursue this idea at the present time.

3.6 Skate Park

A skate park meeting was held on 18 January in the Marple Bands' Cottage.

The regular participants were joined by Craig Silcock, an All Saints' Youth Worker, who will get involved in liaising and linking up with the young skate park users. Craig brings enthusiasm plus a set of skills and experience that the rest of us don't have and should be a big help as we try to move the project forward.

Richard Booker is currently speaking to Rising Stars and Life Leisure about developing events at the skate park to raise awareness of the project and help with its aims.

It is possible that a grant application will be made to Forever Manchester for event funding but unfortunately we have only come to learn about this scheme in the last few days and the application deadline is 15 February. (*Post meeting note: it proved to be impossible to get a bid together in the timescales required to meet the deadline*).

Mark has written to the Macnair Trust asking if they can support the project.

A grant application has been prepared for submission to Marple Area Committee at the start of the new financial year in April 2013.

The skate park survey is now available on-line. A big response to the paper version of the survey has been received from Marple Hall and All Saints' schools.

Additional funding has been received from Steve Abbott, who donated £30 raised by his artwork and the Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights have provided a further £138.50. This brings the total funding raised to £2,534 at present.

Local Giving scheme

Our application to localgiving.com has been successful and our donation web page is now on-line. Even though we are not a registered charity, this allows us to receive Gift Aid on donations made by UK taxpayers. There will also be opportunities for match funding of donations by localgiving.com in the future.

The page is available at www.localgiving.com/fommp and is linked from our own web site.

Our first donation of £20 has been received. The annual fee is £72 so we may not make much profit but it was felt the risk was worth taking for 12 months.

3.7 Teen Shelter

Jonathan advised that the PCSOs have told him that no incidents linked to the teen shelter have been reported to them. The Anti-Social Behaviour team have also provided similar feedback and there is nothing of any substance to support the removal of the shelter at the present time.

Anne spoke to several of the lads who originally told her about the problems during the Christmas Cracker event, when she advised them that incidents must be reported if anything is to be done about them. They were also told that they could report things in confidence to the group using the email address published on the notice board but nothing has been received to date.

At one of the skate park meetings PCSO Bernie Kenyon had said she would provide us with a poster detailing Police contacts for the notice board but this has not been received. Jonathan will catch-up with the Beat Manager and mention this to them.

Bernie also suggested that in the spring when activity starts to pick up again in the park the PCSOs could possibly visit local schools during assembly to encourage pupils to report incidents to teachers or to the police. The group still feel this would be a good idea and Jonathan will also mention this to the Beat Manager.

It was reluctantly accepted by the group that little could be done if incidents are still not being reported and for the time-being the Teen Shelter will remain.

3.8 Park Cottage

The park cottage is now being used and a recent skate park meeting was held there. The Bands are now seeking way to raise funds for the extension.

3.9 Task Days

Previous Task Days since last meeting

The 29 December task day was postponed due to bad weather until 5 January, which was much better and proved very productive. The Jubilee bed was cleared, the Toilet bed and Reading Circle tidied and the All Things Nice bench refurbished.

The 26 January task day was cancelled due to poor weather, although Terry and Patrick did attend and carried out the repair to the Senior Citizens' bench.

Nest Task day - Saturday 23 February

It is hoped that the main task will be to plant up the Jubilee bed with Polyanthus. Some of the local Fire Fighters are planning to join us too and Mark asked Bob to identify if there were any heavier tasks they could tackle.

Patrick asked if timber could be ordered to repair the fencing down near Lock 10. Jonathan thought there might be some already available at Bruntwood Park and asked Adrian to check. (*Post meeting note: repairs to the fence have now been carried out*).

Task Day Dates for 2013

23 February; 30 March; 13 & 27 April; 11 & 25 May; 15 & 29 June; 13 & 27 July;
17 & 31 August; 14 & 28 September; 26 October; 30 November; 28 December 2013.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Current bank balance is £5,210. Income since the last meeting includes £5 from Mr Senior's regular donations, £30 from Steve Abbott, £138.50 from Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights and 63p in interest.

There has been no expenditure since the last meeting.

Committed funds are now £4,163, including £2,534 allocated to the skate park, £1,529 to the Jubilee Project and £100 on the All Things Nice bench. This leaves an uncommitted working balance of £1,046.

Mark advised that the 2012 year end accounts are ready to be submitted to the McInnes Partnership Accountants for their annual review / audit.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Options for new trees

Bob had suggested a location for the two new Amelanchier Lamarckii specimens to replace the trees recently removed from the park. Mark passed the details onto Anthony Crook who, following a site visit with Ian Dunn, has advised that they do not think the location is appropriate.

Instead Anthony proposed a location near to the path running between the play areas and the library. Mark accepted this location on behalf of the group and the trees have been delivered and passed to the contractor for planting.

5.2 Asbestos on the Bowling Green building

The asbestos has now been successfully removed from the buildings.

5.3 Tidy up of Lock-Up

Bob has removed most of the surplus fertilizer and grass seed from the lock-up and we can now proceed with a good tidy-up of our own equipment.

Mark asked if anyone had any old shelves that they would like to donate and reiterated that it would be helpful to have the storage boxes that Jonathan had agreed to supply in good time for the tidy-up.

5.4 Bowling Green Steps

The Bowling Green steps are in very poor condition and deteriorating rapidly. The group are concerned that someone will have an accident on them.

Jonathan advised that this would be dealt with early in the new financial year. There are a number of costed proposals, including the complete removal of one set of steps.

5.5 Co-Op Steps

Patrick was congratulated on his success in encouraging the Co-Op to paint yellow edges on their steps to make them more visible. This is something that Micaela has been suggesting for a considerable time and it is good to get it done at last.

5.6 Bird Bath

Patrick asked if there was a way that the birdbath in the circular ornamental flowerbed could be cleaned up. He has tried the normal green-away with little success. It was agreed to try jet washing it.

5.7 Christmas Lunch

Everyone enjoyed the Christmas lunch at the Hare and Hounds on Dooley Lane and thanked Terry and Micaela for organising it.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 11 March 2013 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2013 (library booked):

11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December 2013.