

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 12th February 2018
Marple Library**

Present: Mick Thompson, Lorraine Thompson, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood,
Bob Wilson, Cllr. Annette Finnie, Mark Whittaker.
Part-time: Cllr. Malcolm Allan, Patrick O'Herlihy.

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Joyce Reed.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA

We have developed plans for improving the small top section of the skatepark and converting the basketball court to a MUGA (Multi-User GAMES) Facility. Budget costs are £35k for the skatepark phase II and £35k for the MUGA = £70k+ in total.

An application for planning permission was submitted on 14 December 2017 and a decision is due in the near future. We do not know at this stage if it will be called up to Area Committee. As far as we know there are no objections to the scheme submitted to the planners, although we are aware that a resident has expressed concern to Cllr. Allan that it looks like we are proposing to build outside of the existing tarmac footprint. This is not correct - the application clearly states that all work is to be contained within the footprint of the existing hard-standings.

Funding options will be investigated further if planning permission is granted.

3.2 Bowling Green

New flowerbed

Top-soil is expected to be available in the near future.

Fixing down of relocated benches

This has now been completed and looks very neat. However, the redundant chains have been left in place. They look very untidy and we will remove them on a task day.

Extra notice board

A new noticeboard has been passed to the Bowlers and a second one offered if they need it. We have a third available too and Cllr. Allan will speak to a couple of other groups he is involved with to see if they would be interested in one of these.

3.3 Play Areas and Play Equipment

We have asked Richard Booker to advise the current status of Commuted Sums allocated to the park so that we can consider further improvements.

3.4 Park Benches

Kay bench

No change – we can begin to tackle this during future task days.

Grey painted benches at Fletcher Moss Park

A visit is to be organised when the weather improves.

Hard-standings for benches

Wayne has sourced 20 x 600 square paving slabs that we can use for this and is organising for SSK to deliver them to the park for us. If we can find one extra this will allow us to do a total of 7 benches (Boules Court, Skatepark and Ian Rice bench).

We will need a supply of grit sand, which means we could now make use of the builders' bag of sand that has been abandoned on Hollins Lane for many months.

3.5 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

Replacement of Midnight

It looks likely that we will need to remove the sculpture this year. Mark has mentioned this to Myers Tree Care again and we hope they will be able to source a large piece of timber suitable for creating a replacement sculpture.

Painting of Pavilion Buildings

We have 2 part full tins of black gloss and 1 part full tin of white. This should be enough to make a start next year but we will ask Greenspace to order more next FY.

It was agreed to ask the Bowlers if they would like to help with this task.

Breathing Places reading circle

Renewal of the hard-standing surface will be raised again next FY, when funding may be available from Greenspace to help.

York stone stolen from park entrance

The forecast completion date of 27 December 2017 given to Cllr Allan by Highways has not been achieved. The missing stone and the barriers, which keep falling over, continue to be a safety tripping hazard and the group is perturbed at how long this is taking to resolve. Cllr. Allan has seen an SSK work list with this job on but there were no dates shown, so he will continue to pursue this with Highways Officers.

Painting of Infants Play area fence

We have 2 full 5L tins and 1 part tin of cream paint, 1 full 5L tin and 1 part tin of red and the same for blue. So we will be able to start next year but will need more. We will ask Greenspace to jet-wash the fence next spring in preparation for painting.

Boules Court

Sourcing of materials to top-up the Boules Court has been discussed with Greenspace and we will raise the matter again in the new FY, when funding may be available.

Circular Coronation Bench

No further progress on this item at present.

Information board near to Lock 10

Marple College has been contacted about getting involved in the production of new artwork for this and possibly 2 or 3 other that that would also benefit from renewal.

The initial response has been very positive and further discussions will take place.

(Post meeting note: a meeting at the park with a representative of the college has been arranged for Wednesday 28 February at 4pm).

3.6 Skatepark Development Project

Outstanding Skatepark Project tasks

Screening trees and shrubs

A plan was produced by the Greenspace Team and a meeting attended by Richard Booker, Cllr. Allan and Mark was held with residents on 20 December.

Since then the council has decided to plant five larger pine trees near the skatepark in addition to the tree whips and the three Yew trees nearer to the canal.

Trees were due to arrive last week and planting by SSK will be done soon.

(PMN: trees and whips near the skatepark have been planted and Yews will be added on Wednesday 21 February. There has been vandalism reported to whips.)

Switching off lights

Cllr. Allan advised that the wording for signage has been agreed and the timers ordered. Installation is due to take place around the same time as the tree planting.

Possible relocation of CCTV camera

It has come to our attention that there is a growing problem of older non-skating youths coming into the park, intimidating, bullying and threatening younger skatepark users and also dealing drugs.

In December 2017 Mark wrote to local councillors about this and asked for an investigation into the feasibility of relocating the camera overlooking the Bowling Green that was installed in 2015. This has made a great difference to ASB in that area but with the subsequent additions of fencing around the pavilion canopy and the green itself, it would now be better redeployed to help address this new problem.

Councillors responded positively and it was suggested that the working group with police, council officers and local councillors be reformed to discuss this further.

This was expected to take place in early January but has not happened yet. So on Wednesday 31 January Mark raised the issue at Marple Area Committee and councillors agreed that the matter should be addressed as soon as possible.

3.7 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

Thomas Wray was the first casualty of 1918 to be added on 25 January. It is now all quiet until the 100th anniversary of the start of the "Spring Offensive" on 21 March. A further 10 men will have to be added by the end of that month.

Permanent display

The design for the timeline display has been relaid out three cards deep, so that it uses only the six flat sections of railings. Prices have been obtained from four interpretation panel providers, including one local company.

Prices for different systems including expensive GRP or PETG panels range from £8,790 to just under £1,000. The cheaper options (quoted at £1,185 and £968) are for vinyl printing on an aluminium di-bond composite material.

To ensure this system is suitable two A3 panels were ordered featuring the Marple family lost on the Lusitania and the Military Hospital + Defence Corps. These were passed round at the meeting and it was agreed that the quality is acceptable.

These two extra panels were ordered at a cost of £75.60. They were not made exactly as requested and replacements are being sent by the company that made them FOC. The replacement panels will be used as part of the permanent display too.

The plan is to replace the first half of the current display as soon as we can find the funds to do so, with the second half installed before Remembrance 2018.

The next step is to seek funding and an application for Flexibility Funding will be submitted to Marple Area Committee in time for the next meeting.

3.8 Task Days

Last Task Days – 27 January 2018

A good start to the new year after having to cancel the last two task days in 2017 due to poor weather. Daffodil bulbs donated by Open Gardens in Marple were planted.

Cllr. Allan is organising another two bags, which will take our total bulbs planted in the park since this time last year to an amazing 18,000+.

Ad-hoc Task Days

Nothing scheduled but we may organise some to install hard-standings to benches.

Next Task Days – 24 February and 31 March 2018

Parking is approved for these. Emails will be sent out when due.

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments were reviewed and updated in December and a Task Day Application covering 1 January to 30 June 2018 has been approved.

Saturday Task Days in 2018: 24 February, 31 March, 14, 28 April, 12, 26 May, 16, 30 June, 14, 28 July, 11, 25 August, 15, 29 September, 13, 27 October, 10, 24 November & 29 December.

Training

We await news of any further dates for training.

Dates are also still awaited for Mick and Bob to do the power-tools training.

Power Tools

Nothing new.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Last statement on 22 January shows a balance of £3,902.82. Bank balance at year ending 31 December 2017 was £3,686.28.

Accounts will be prepared for audit in the near future.

Income since last meeting:

2017:

£51.82 Local Giving.
£0.47 Interest.
£18.41 Easy Fund Raising.

2018:

£65.80 Local Giving.
£71.24 Co-Op Collection Box.
£69.00 Christmas cards made by Gill (sold in library etc.)
£19.90 Collected in Park.

Expenditure since last meeting:

£75.60 2 x A3 WWI panels.

Currently committed funds are: WWI Display £46 and Plants £72, leaving a current working balance of £3,718.36.

Marple Bands warned us that they had closed the bank account that paid our standing order in November but we have missed 4 payments of £15. Mark contacted their Treasurer to ask about this and they now have send a cheque covering up to March.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Name plates for driveway into the park

Marple Area Committee agreed to fund this with £340 from their Highways budget at the 31 January AC meeting. Wayne has raised an order for the signs and will let us know how long it is expected to take.

5.2 Open Gardens in Marple (7th and 8th July 2018)

Daffodils won as a prize from Parkers have been planted in the park.

18 gardens are now signed up and the main drive at the moment is "Save the Dates".

A meeting is arranged for garden owners and volunteers on Thursday 8 March. Anyone wishing to volunteer help (including in the park) is welcome to attend.

5.3 Encouraging new and younger volunteers

Ideas for this can be discussed and developed further at future meetings.

Little-Growers

Joyce's idea of having a 'Little Growers' stand and lots of quite large seeds with pictures of what they'll look like, and pots and compost, and encouraging the children to grow something that they can plant in the park in the summer is very popular.

A separate meeting is to be arranged to discuss in more detail.

100th Anniversary of Votes for Women

It was suggested that planting of green, purple and white flowering plants in the park could be tied to commemoration of the anniversary of Votes for Women.

Painting of Infants Play Area Fence

In previous years we have involved young people from All Saints' Youth group and the Challenge Network in painting of the fence. We will try to do that again this time.

Involving college students in task days

This can be followed up with Marple College when the display panels are discussed.

5.4 Inviting Ian Walmsley to our meeting

We have a number of initiatives on hold until the new FY in the hope that Greenspace will have funds to support some of them. Cllr Allan suggested inviting Ian Walmsley to a meeting to discuss these early in the new FY.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 12 March 2018 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2018 (library booked):

12 March, 9 April, 14 May, 11 June 2018.