

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 13 January 2020
Marple Library**

Present: Mick Thompson, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Diane Jackson, Bob Wilson, Cllr Malcolm Allan (part-time), Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Patrick O'Herlihy, Joyce Reed, Lorraine Thompson.

1.1 Minutes of last meeting: Agreed subject to the follow corrections:

Prizes listed in status of funds as "November" should have read "October" 2019.

Bird Boxes, Library Bird Box and Dog Mess items were discussed under AOB but omitted from the minutes in error. Items are covered again in these minutes.

2.0 50-50 Club Draw for December 2019:

By the end of December numbers 1 – 78 were registered but 2 of these (33 & 77) were unpaid and were therefore omitted from the draw. The draw was made using a random no. generator App at the meeting. The winners were:

- 1st Prize: £95 - No. 078 Anne Edwards.
- 2nd Prize: £57 - No. 029 Bernard Kelly.
- 3rd Prize: £38 - No. 021 Hilary Brooks.

Total income was £380 with £190 in prizes and £190 allocated to Park Funds.

Prize cheques will be written and signed tomorrow.

The Lottery Return was signed at the meeting and will be submitted to SMBC.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA

Despite chasing Canvas again Richard is still waiting for information from them, including details about the track. He has therefore decided to bring forward the pre-start meeting to early February in order to tie up the loose ends in good time.

Relocation of CCTV Camera: TLC has reported that there was an issue with cabling that stopped the work before Christmas. They are due to do it early this week.

Street lights not working: Councillor Allan will follow this up.

Graffiti removal requested: Bernard sent through photos of graffiti at the skatepark on 19 December. Mark requested removal via the Neighbourhood Team on the same day and identified that some of it was offensive. It is still there and there is now more, so the matter has been raised again with the Neighbourhood Team.

Repainting of vertical surfaces: Mark agreed to raise the re-painting of vertical surfaces at the skatepark at the pre-start meeting. We may be able to get access to do this while the skatepark is closed off. A camouflage colour scheme was suggested.

3.2 Bowling Green and Buildings

Pavilion Art Project: Mark met with Tracy and Pete from Art-Stop on 27 December to finalise details of the grant application, which was submitted on 28 December.

Our bid asks for £10,000 from Awards for All towards an art project that will:

- Create a large artwork under the Pavilion canopy.
- Create a community art display (similar to the Rose Hill Station Project) on the rear wall of the Pavilion building.

- Link-up with the Sculpture Trail if both bids are successful via nature posts with small artwork roundels and link with the canal trails via rubbing tiles.

We have included costs of £1,500 to be contributed by the group covering a hard-standing in front of the community artwork display plus any contingency likely to be necessary. The funds have been allocated in our accounts until the outcome is known.

We've received a great letter of support from the council and we can expect to hear within 18 weeks whether our bid is successful. Fingers crossed!

Painting of Pavilion Building: To start as soon as practicable.

Fitting out of Mess Room: The new kitchen was installed last week and we've moved our gear to the lockable cupboard and removed the steel cabinet.

It looks great and we'll see how practical it is when in use.

We have asked Wayne to order paint for walls and floor.

The new heater has not been fitted yet and we have asked Wayne to chase this up.

3.3 New Sculpture Trail Project

We have submitted an application to the Art Council for £13,600 towards a project with total value of £23,180. This includes £6,080 of support in kind and £3,500 from our existing and future funds. This required a significant effort from Anne-Louise and Mark, with a 70-page application that was very detailed and demanding.

The project will:

- Develop a trail of 6 sculptures with local schools (one each) plus a carved reading lectern and mushroom seating where Midnight used to be located.
- Include live carving demos at schools, art exhibition in library, who will do Story-Time readings too. There will also be a leaflet, QR codes and web pages.
- It will link with the canal trails by using rubbing tiles on posts at the sculpture locations and also link with the Pavilion Art project if both are successful.

We expect a decision from the Arts Council within 6 weeks.

3.4 Wild-flower Meadow / Lock 11 Compound

We have asked Wayne for an update on when preparation works will be done.

Delivery of new trees is expected this month.

3.5 Possible Play Area Improvements

Richard was chased-up about this recently and he has agreed to get back on top of it. He has asked for a topographical survey of the site to help when looking at ideas.

The key concept is to merge the two existing Play Areas into a single larger play space, which we see fitting in well if plans to develop the built area of the park go ahead. We are hoping that this can include the replacement of the wooden fence around the Infants Play Area as this is reaching the end of its useful life.

We still hope to visit Manchester Road and Heaton Norris parks to take a look at trampolines and artificial turf at their 5-a-side goal-mouths.

Consultation on Park Development: The last council announcement stated "*The next phase will be a programme of more detailed engagement with local organisations who could be directly affected by, or involved with the scheme.*" They will also be talking to local groups who might be indirectly affected by the development.

Councillor Allan explained what he knows about the development proposals so far and confirmed his understanding that the group will be consulted during the first phase.

3.6 Benches in Park & Town Centre

Park benches general:

We have been contacted by the family of Gordon Peters, whose commemorative bench is one of the ones near to Station Road. They were upset at offensive graffiti that was written on the bench and also names that have been deeply carved into the slats.

Mark has sanded off the the graffiti and agreed that we will removed the slats and machine sand them off-site and / or replace them with spares. The family has agreed to make a donation of £100 towards park funds after this is done.

Bench near Boules court:

The bench on the main path near to the Boules Court has a badly cracked base, even though it is not that old. It is awaiting a new one to be organised by Wayne.

Town Centre – Nativity Sculpture:

In December we helped Churches Together install the steel Nativity Sculptures created by Wayne Chaisty on the bench in Market Street. Having learned how difficult it was to access the storage location in the All Saints' Church basement, we have agreed to store the sculptures at the park and take the lead on installing and removing them at the appropriate times in future.

A risk assessment and task day application covering this and also maintenance work to benches in the Town Centre has been submitted and approved.

Better access to the sculptures also means that we can arrange for Wayne Chaisty to carry out refurbishment work that he has offered to do free of charge.

3.7 Park Buildings and General Infrastructure

Info board near to Lock 10: Ongoing: awaiting replacement artwork.

Painting of Infants Play area fence: Pending Play Area developments.

Possible refurbishment of Park Toilets: Scheme on hold while the built area of the park is considered for the location of a new community centre / swimming pool.

Possible Water Fountain / Bottle Station: No change / on hold.

3.8 Task Days

Last Task Days – 28 December 2019:

A good turnout for the final task day of the year means we worked over 1,000 volunteer hours in the park in 2019.

Ad-hoc Task Days:

Monday 6th January: removed and stored Nativity Sculptures. Also removed most of the wreaths from around the War Memorial at the back end of last week.

Next Task Days – 25 January 2020:

Parking has been arranged. Email reminders will be sent out when due.

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments:

Applications for Task Days in the park 1 January until 30 June 2020 and also for Town Centre activities throughout the year have been submitted and approved.

All RA's were reviewed and updated for submission with the above.

Scheduled Task Days in 2020:

25 January, 29 February, 14 & 28 March, 11 & 25 April, 16 & 30 May 13 & 27 June, 11 & 25 July, 15 & 29 August, 12 & 26 September, 17 & 31 October, 14 & 28 November.

Training: Awaiting new dates from Wayne Bardsley.

Tools / Power Tools: No change.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

The group's accounts have been prepared for submission to the McInnes Partnership for review after the end of the month, when they should be less busy.

A report on income and expenditure for the year was published with the agenda for review. This included an audit trail showing the closure of the RBS account, opening of the Santander account and the subsequent use of the latter for the 50-50 Club.

Main Bank Account (Barclays): Balance = £10,689.03.

Committed funds are £3,500 towards the Sculpture Trail Project, £2,500 ring-fenced for the Skatepark, £1,500 towards the Pavilion Art Project, £400 for Wild-flower Meadow preparation and £250 for new trees, leaving a working balance of £2,539.03.

Income to Main Barclays A/C since the last meeting:

£183.00	November 50-50 Club Draw income.
£165.00	Local Giving.
£30.00	Brass Bands of Marple (Garden Maintenance).
£100.00	Marple Carnival Committee (Sculpture Trail).
£100.00	Marple Website (Sculpture Trail).
£40.00	Donation from Cllr Allan (50% of 50-50 Club win).
£295.00	Collected in park plus craft and cards sales (approx £145).
£415.00	Balancing transfer from 50-50 Club account.

Expenditure from Barclays A/C since the last meeting:

£155.94	6 x woodcrete bird boxes (installed).
£155.94	6 x woodcrete bird boxes (still to install).
£80.87	10 x hi-vis vests with "Friends of Marple Memorial Park" on back.

50-50 Club A/C (Santander): Balance = £800.00.

Income to Santander 50-50 Club A/C since the last meeting:

£305.00	50-50 Club payments during December.
£30.00	50-50 Club payments during January.

Expenditure from Santander A/C since the last meeting:

£91.00	November 1 st Prize (banked).
£55.00	November 2 nd Prize (banked).
£36.00	November 3 rd Prize (banked).
£183.00	November 50-50 Club income to Park Fund.
£415.00	Balancing transfer to main account.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 St Martin's Christmas Tree Festival

Tree was taken down on 6 January and a thank you note from Father Ed received.

5.2 Marple College adoption of flowerbed

No change – we will talk further with college after the skatepark programme is firmed up but it is likely that we may need to create a new flowerbed due to timing.

5.3 Library Bird Box

Wayne helped us to remove the Breathing Places bird box from the library before Christmas. It is now with Terry for repair and the aim is to have it reinstalled in early February in time for bird nesting.

5.4 Woodcrete Bird and Bat Boxes

In 2018 we ordered new woodcrete bird boxes but the company ran out of stock and never delivered, so we got our money back. In December 2019 we ordered 6 boxes from the RSPB at a cost of £155.94. Although expensive compared to wooden boxes, woodcrete ones have a life expectancy of 25 years, making it good value for money.

The first 6 boxes from the RSPB were delivered and installed with Wayne in early January. A second lot of 6 have been ordered and delivered, awaiting installation.

A grant application has been made to the Stockport Hydro Environmental Challenge for £275 covering a further 6 woodcrete bird boxes and 6 woodcrete bat boxes.

We should learn the outcome of the grant application in February.

5.5 Social Event 25 January

Invites are out, arrive from 6pm, bring a contribution to the buffet and own drinks.

5.6 Boules Court

It was noted that the French Boules Court was often water-logged during last year. This is largely due to the amount of rain but may have been exacerbated by the extra fill and compaction carried out in 2018. It was agreed to see how it goes this year before deciding whether to take any action. Options were discussed and it was concluded that the easiest would be to try loosening the fill material with a Rotavator.

5.6 Dog Mess

In November Diane and Mark met with Karen Barnes from the Neighbourhood Team to discuss possible actions concerning dog mess in the park, particularly around the flowerbeds. Karen gave us some temporary signs, leaflets and poo-bag holders.

Diane followed this up by email to make Karen aware of the Dogs Trust, who provide free help and support and will visit parks, carry out dog health checks, free chipping and talk to owners. Copies of the leaflets have been posted in the noticeboards.

Di will follow up again to see if we can encourage the council to take further action.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 10 February 2020 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2020 (library booked):

10 February, 9 March, 13 April, 11 May, 8 June 2020.