

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 14th July 2008
Marple Library**

Present: Adrian Ellis, Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Patrick O'Herlihy, Gavin Eyquem, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Jay Havoleana, Dave Burrows.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 BBC Breathing Places Reading Area

Sculpture

The sculpture is now finished but Andrew Frost has asked if he could keep it for another couple of weeks so that he can display it at the Tatton Show. Mark has agreed to this and, by way of a thank you, Andrew has offered to provide a small sculpture free of charge.

Ideas were discussed and it was agreed to ask Andrew if he would be able to create a 3D replacement sign for the Toddlers' Play Area.

Mark has provided him with a poster explaining about the Friends of the Park for display at the Tatton Show and asked he can send a photograph of the sculpture.

Wildflowers

The BLF Project Officer has approved Jacky Budd's proposals for £580 worth of wildflowers and agreed a project extension to December 2008. Mark has asked Jacky to go ahead with the order for planting in October.

BBC "Do One Thing" Event

A discussion took place about registering an event in the park with the BBC "Do One Thing for Nature" scheme to get people involved in planting the wildflowers. Adrian confirmed that the council would be able to support this in order to satisfy the public liability; volunteer policy and child protect policy criteria specified by the BBC.

It was agreed to a put a proposal to the BBC for a planting event on the 25 October task day and request a "Do One Thing" event pack.

Hedgehog Boxes

The David Lewis Centre invoice for £40 has now been paid.

Interpretation

As Jay was unable to attend this will carry over to the next meeting.

Proposals for spending surplus funds

The Big Lottery Fund has approved our proposals for spending the surplus funds as follows:

£130 on tree whips planted during February and March this year.
£50 on wildflowers planted by volunteers in March this year.
£17 for 3 books purchased on urban woodland / wildlife gardening.
£44 on the solar powered Insect Study Centre.
£580 on wildflowers as recommended by Jacky Budd.
£29 on 3 additional books on wildlife gardening and woodland wildflowers.

The 3 additional books have been ordered at a slightly increased cost of £31.49, due to minor price changes and postage.

Breathing Places funds still to spend include:

£1,000	Interpretation
£1,800	Sculpture
£580	Wildflowers

Use as Reading Area by Library

Linda Paton has responded to the enquiry about the library using the reading area to confirm that they do not have any issues with it. Linda has also advised that she plans to "launch" the reading area by inviting the press to an event once the sculpture is installed.

3.2 Basketball Court Fence

Rebecca has advised that the planning application has now been resolved and we can proceed with the full 3m high fence on both sides of the basketball court, which is great news.

A provisional price is £4,318 but this does not include the chicane / steps arrangement that will be needed to provide good access to the teen shelter area without allowing the basketballs to escape too easily.

There are currently funds of £3,752 available in commuted sums that could pay towards the fence, subject to Area Committee approval.

Mark has sent a sketch to Rebecca with a proposal of how the chicane / steps should look and asked if she can firm up a price for this.

Mark has also asked Rebecca to seek Area Committee approval to spend the commuted sum on this project.

Once the costs and availability of funding are clear we will be able to consider how to overcome any shortfall. We might be able to find a way to do all the work at once or it may prove necessary to construct the fence with an opening and tackle the chicane and steps at a later date.

3.3 Beech Tree Sculpture

Some frustration was expressed that it was now 8 months since we agreed on the positions for the ground sculptures to be installed around the tree sculpture but they are still not in place. Adrian acknowledged that it has proved difficult to find the time to do this but asked if it was acceptable if the work was started next week. The group were pleased with this response.

The replacement apple sculpture for the infants play area will hopefully arrive with the Breathing Places sculpture after the Tatton Show. Mark will keep reminding Andrew Frost about this.

The fresh fungus growth on the main tree sculpture was discussed and it was agreed to try removing it from a sample area by scraping and sanding and then re-treat it with the anti-fungicidal decking oil. This can hopefully be done during the next task day.

3.4 Infants Play Area

There is no news on the replacement of the graphics and the blue line around the former boating pool perimeter yet. Mark will ask Rebecca for an update. *(Post meeting note: The new graphics are being cut in Denmark because they are specials. Unfortunately things happen rather slowly there during the summer holidays but the work is underway. The existing boat graphic and the circles will remain but the other graphics will be replaced.)*

As already mentioned, an opportunity has arisen for a free sculpture from Andrew Frost and it has been agreed to ask him if he can create a replacement for the playground sign.

3.5 Boules Court.

The O2 "It's Your Community" award of £1,000 towards the Boules Court has been received. A photo was taken during the last task day with the O2 balloons and a press release was issued on 7th July. Although the press have not yet picked up on the release the "It's Your Community" officers were pleased with it. *(Post meeting note: A new page has now been added to the Friends' web site about the court.)*

The price has been confirmed at £2,869. This is more than expected because the previous price was based on the contractor already being on site to do the Breathing Places landscape work. Despite this an order has been placed and the construction of the court is already underway.

Mark has obtained prices for memorial seats similar to the new council approved metal seats installed in the infants play area. The cost, excluding delivery and installation is £568 + VAT. The full cost including delivery and installation works out to around £750 + VAT each, depending on the quantities ordered. It is expected that we will not need to pay the VAT if an order is placed through the council.

(Post meeting note: A full price breakdown excluding VAT is:

£508 1800mm seat

£21 Underground legs (for mounting on soft areas).

£39 Memorial plaque

£568 Total cost excluding installation and delivery

Delivery is 10% of order with a minimum charge of £125.

Installation is £155 each for up to five seats, discounted to £125 each for six or more. This works out at £4,499 for six benches, or £750 each. The cost for four benches would be £3,119, or £780 each.)

It was agreed that six benches was a good, if ambitious, target but after committing £1,869 to the construction of the court the Friends do not currently have sufficient funds of their own to pay for them.

Patrick has already initiated discussions with several local community groups and now that detailed costs are available will follow this up with Marple Business Forum, Marple Civic Society, The Rotary, Senior Citizens and the District Partnership.

A number of individuals have spoken to Mark about commemorative benches and he will also follow these up.

Adrian will ask playground maintenance how much it would cost for them to install the seats.

It was agreed to celebrate the success of the project by holding a boules tournament on the 30th August task day, instead of the usual tasks.

3.6 Task Days

Last Day – 28 June

A lower turn out than we've grown to expect but volunteers still managed to plant a full wagonload of begonias in the ornamental flowerbeds. The YOT were in attendance and weeded the Rose Beds and also the area in front of the library.

Another task day was held on Wednesday 2nd July with, Micaela, Gavin and Gill helping Bob with a variety of maintenance activities around the Bowling Green and War Memorial.

Next Task Day – 26 July

Sanding / oiling of the tree sculpture is planned and Bob will ensure that there are plenty of other tasks to carry out. Another possibility is the cleaning of the War Memorial (see 3.8 later).

Mark will submit the list of registrations for free parking and send out the email notification of the task day event.

3.7 Gap in fence near Garth Road

Although it was proposed last month to add a new post to the broken fence and create a permanent opening into the park, when this was discussed further it was felt not to be such a good idea. Patrick suggested that for safety reasons a stile or a restricted gate would need to be installed if this was to be adopted as an agreed entrance to the park. Alternatively, a more robust fence could be erected to try and prevent people entering through this route, which would enable the hedging to become better established.

Adrian will take a look at this to determine the best approach to the problem.

3.8 War Memorial

Bob advised that his visit to Didsbury with Jacky Budd to review rockery plants had taken place last month. Jacky will now develop a costed scheme for the park's War Memorial beds.

Adrian agreed to follow up with Dave the issue raised last month of whether the memorial is listed and whether Dave can find money in his budget to clean it. Ideally it should be cleaned before the International Merchant Navy Day service on 7th September.

Bob queried if the shelter built by ex-service should be listed too. Mark will ask Peter Clarke, as the local War Memorial Trust representative, what the status of the shelter and war memorial are.

3.9 Park Cottage

No new information. Sue Emery has spoken to Bob recently and confirmed that the proposals for a band room are still being pursued.

4.0 Status of Funds

Income since last month was £1,000 from O2 and another £25 from the ladies who took some plants to a church sale after the May task day. Expenditure was £40 on the hedgehog boxes.

Current bank balance:	£7,277	
Committed Funds:	£6,742	
Breathing Places		£3,820
Boules Court		£2,869
Sundial & Shuttle panels		£53
Working balance:	£535	

4.1 Fundraising Activities

The next opportunity for fundraising locally is the Food Festival on Saturday 20th September. Mark has asked Craig Wright if we can have two stalls (one for Marple Promotions and one for the Friends) the same as last year and confirmation from Craig is awaited.

Micaela confirmed that she would organise a tombola and would help to set up the stall but extra help will be needed in the afternoon because she wishes to attend the Vernon Park celebrations on the same day.

Mark has also asked if we can have another couple of quiz nights at the Ring o' Bells. *(Post meeting note: Peter has confirmed dates as 17th December 2008 and 7th January 2009.)*

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob has been on holiday recently and is now trying to catch up with the general maintenance and upkeep of the park.

Adrian and Bob confirmed that the park has received the Green Flag Award for 2008/9 and there will be an award ceremony on 23rd July in Liverpool. Bob will be going and Micaela may be able to attend too.

Adrian explained that the plants that were requested for the ornamental beds this year had not been very successful and therefore the beds were not looking as good as intended.

Mark enquired about anti-social behaviour in the park, as Kay Blair had mentioned that she had heard of a serious incident resulting in someone being taken to hospital. Bob confirmed that an incident had taken place but the police had dealt it with and he was not aware of specific details.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Coronation Bench

Advice from Wayne Chaisty on the cost of replacing the leaves that have been pulled off the Coronation Bench is awaited. Mark will chase this up.

6.2 Letter to Wyevale Garden Centre

Mark has provided Jay with some headed letter paper so that she can write to Wyevale Garden Centre regarding sponsorship. As Jay was unable to attend the meeting this will be carried over to next month.

6.3 Bird Survey

Patrick advised that a gentleman called Ian Hilton, an experienced bird watcher, has agreed to carry out bird surveys in the park on a monthly basis. This will identify over a prolonged period the birds that are visiting the park and build up a picture of how this is changing. The group were very pleased with this and look forward to Mr. Hilton's reports.

6.4 Bowling Green Building Door

Bob advised that Ken, the Bowling Club representative, has complained about the condition of the small door on the bowling building and is concerned that it will encourage attempts to break in. Adrian will ask Dave to take a look at this.

6.5 Tony Kirkham

Micaela wondered if it would be worth trying to invite Tony Kirkham from the programme "Trees that made Britain" to do something in the park. Although he probably receives hundreds of similar requests the group encouraged Micaela to give this a try.

7.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 11th August 2008 at 6pm in Marple Library.

List of reminders:

Outdoor Fitness Equipment (sources of funding).

Lock 17 plaque / raise stonework in September.

Park leaflet update.