

Friends of Marple Memorial Park (AGM)
Monday 11th July 2011
Marple Library

Present: Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Terry Wood, Joyce Reed, Ken Else, Ann Frazer, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Patrick O'Herlihy.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Improvements to the Park Entrance

Drainage Improvements

Adrian advised that updated prices have now been received for three options on the drainage works needed at the main entrance. These are £6,000+VAT for a new gully with mains connection, £2,000+VAT for a new gully with soak-away and £600+VAT to make adjustments to the existing gully. Prices have been forwarded to Ian Warmsley for a decision, which should be made in the next couple of months. The urgent repair work at Brabyns Park has been completed so it will depend how much is left in the budget for this kind of infrastructure works.

3.2 Ornamental Flowerbeds

Delivery of plants and shrubs

Adrian and Bob advised that all plants have at last been delivered and have also been planted in the beds. The group confirmed that an invoice for the agreed sum of £1,537.50 would now be accepted for payment.

Funding Progress

Stockport Homes panel reviewed the group's application on Thursday 16 June and it was presented to Stockport Homes customers at Area Forums on Friday 8 July at the Senior Citizens' Hall and today at Brinnington. Details of the outcome are awaited.

3.3 Park Benches

Preservatives and Sanding Materials

Adrian expects to order wood preserver and rolls of 60 and 80 grade sanding materials next week for the group to use when refurbishing benches.

Daytime Visits by David Lewis Centre Task Group

Terry advised that he is planning to bring his team to the park to tackle the bench near to the Co-Op next Tuesday, 19 July.

Replacement of bench near Junior Play Area (No. 17 on survey)

The family wishing to replace the bench have chosen a Broxap Arboreal Seat and have advised what they would like on the plaque. Mark has requested a quotation from Broxap for this and asked Adrian and Jonathan if the council will be able to install free of charge and if there will be any charges for placing an order on our behalf.

Adrian will look at the bench that needs to be removed to determine if it will be ok for the group to do this on a task day or if the council will need to do it.

Refurbishment of another bench (No. 16 on survey)

Mark has confirmed the price of a plaque from the source used before as £35 - £40 and Adrian has passed the details onto the lady considering refurbishment of this bench. He is now expecting her to get in touch with Mark. Terry advised that the cost of hardwood and other materials should be approximately £150 based on prices obtained several months ago but will firm this up when he is back at work next week.

3.4 Picnic Benches

There seems to have been a bit of confusion as Terry thought he was waiting to learn when the inspection meeting was to be held before finishing the sample bench. Mark confirmed that Terry should go ahead and make the bench and once it was ready the meeting could be arranged with Jonathan and Gareth.

3.5 Treatment of Sculptures and Wooden Features

Adrian still needs to organise the drill to create a new hole for the reinforcing bar to be re-fitted but hopes to do this within the next week.

Adrian advised that the council no longer has a painting plan for the Infants Play Area fence. Gareth has confirmed that it would be ok for the group to paint the woodwork but not any steel or other metal items in the play areas.

Joyce suggested that the fence may only need cleaning and it was agreed to try this first, as it would be essential preparation for painting anyway. Hopefully it will be possible to do this at the next task day.

Adrian agreed to investigate if the council would be able to purchase the paint if the fence does prove to need more than just cleaning.

3.6 Painting of Bowling Green Buildings

A second coat of black paint was applied to the doors and shutters during the last task day but areas on the wooden doors where there are scratches are still reacting badly to the paint. Terry suggested applying smooth filler to the cracks and then repainting locally to finish off and will obtain suitable filler ready for the next task day.

3.7 Bowling Green Boards

The price of £1,600+VAT obtained by Gill for replacing the boards in uPVC was reviewed and other options considered. Mark asked Tim Boylan in Landscapes if he could obtain prices for wood and uPVC options but he has passed the request on to Adrian and Jonathan, who have not yet taken any action.

Ken advised his assessment was that only around 25% of the boards and 10 to 12 posts would need to be replaced if the existing boards were refurbished, whereas everything would need replacing if it was to be done in uPVC.

Bob believes that there are still boards left over from the last refurbishment. He and Adrian will look into this and advise what is available and provide options and prices.

Mark agreed to assist Ken with grant applications should this prove to be necessary.

3.8 Task Days

Previous Task Day – 25 June 2011

A smaller turnout than recent months, probably due to the weather and holidays, but we still managed to weed the flower beds, put another coat of paint on the bowling green building, tidied shrub beds near to the Junior Play Area and crown lifted a number of trees that were encroaching on the benches near to the park cottage.

In the afternoon the group attended the picnic in the park to celebrate National Civic Day and Marple Civic Society's 50th Anniversary.

Next Task Day – 30 July 2011

Weather permitting it is proposed to tackle painting of the Coronation bench, fill the cracks and repaint the bowling green building doors, clean the Infants Play Area fence, continue work on the flower and shrub beds and tidy up the reading circle.

Mark will send out the parking request for specified vehicles and the task day email.

3.9 Vision of Marple

Skate Park

A Facebook page and group have been set up at www.facebook.com/marpleskatepark and 76 people "like" it so far with a fair amount of interest. Some of the skate park users came and talked about what they would like to see during the Locks Festival.

Marple Hall School held their enrichment week last week and it is understood to have gone quite well, although Lewis Abbott was not allowed into the school because he is not CRB checked. This is a very disappointing decision by the school considering that he was to be accompanied by a teacher at all times. Lewis arranged for the children to meet him in the park on Saturday instead but it is not known how this went yet.

Richard Booker was able to join the pupils later in the week and has provided some positive feedback and said that a questionnaire was produced that could possibly be used to seek further input from other skate park users.

Mark has spoken to Craig Wright who has advised that commuted sums currently allocated to Memorial Park have been earmarked for the skate park. This totals approximately £3,400 at present. Craig has also said that he will try to make contact with the group who had created the DIY bike ramps in Brabyns Park.

Some of the kids posting on the facebook page have shown an interest in organising an event to raise funds for the improvements. Mark is concerned about the stringent requirements for a formal public event such as this but has agreed to try and arrange for them to meet with Adrian to discuss their ideas. Adrian would be available on Friday mornings on the 15th and 22nd July, when Mark could attend too.

Sport England are running a workshop in Bolton about their new "Inspired Facilities" funding programme on 28 July, which may be suitable for the skate park. Mark has applied for a place and also asked a member of Marple Civic Society to apply too.

Once the information is available from the enrichment week and Lewis's meeting with the kids on Saturday it will be time for a second meeting to discuss the next steps to take the project forward.

3.10 Toilets in the Park

The next meeting with Cllr Alexander, Council Officers and Community Group representatives is due to take place on Friday 15 July 2011.

(Post meeting note: On Friday 15 July a second meeting took place between Cllr Shan Alexander, Environmental Officers from the council and representatives of Marple Community Council, Marple Carnival Committee, Marple Veteran Bowling Club, Marple Civic Society and Friends of Marple Memorial Park.

The council have reviewed the ideas and suggestions discussed at the meeting on 10 June and have made progress by identifying a solution to the cleaning of the toilets on weekdays that will utilise the same resources that service the Senior Citizens Hall, Library and Council Offices toilets.

It was agreed that the Veterans Bowling Club will have a key to the toilets and shall take responsibility for opening and closing them on Wednesday evenings in the summer when they hold their matches.

Opening and closing of the toilets during weekdays is currently being discussed internally within the council. If this can be concluded successfully it will secure use of the toilets from Monday to Friday each week. A further meeting has been arranged for mid September to review progress and in the meantime the toilets will continue to be cleaned, opened and closed under the existing arrangements until the end of September.

It is the view of the groups represented at the meeting that when solutions to the weekday usage of the toilets are in place and the facilities secured it will be possible to investigate ways to open the toilets on weekends and special occasions too.)

3.11 Park Cottage

Sue Emery has advised that there has been interest in the plot behind the Edge that is up for sale but no offers yet. The group are soon to start work inside the cottage on lowering the ceiling to create extra loft-space for storage of music and instruments.

3.12 Marple Festival

Food and Drink Day

Mark has reconfirmed with Craig Wright that we would like a stall at the food and drink day – someone had told him that we didn't but this is not correct.

Mark has prepared a letter for Micaela to take around the local shops and businesses requesting donation of prizes for the tombola and she will start on this task in the next week or so.

Fund Raising Opportunity

Mark and Patrick met with Marple Cricket Club on 20 June to discuss the possibility of helping to clean up after their events on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th September and Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd October in return for a donation to the park.

Mark has suggested a figure to the Cricket Club and agreement or a counter offer is awaited. The group's thoughts on this were discussed at some length and it is difficult to assess what our response should be until we hear from the Cricket Club again.

3.13 French Boules Tournament

The trophy has now been ordered and more formal invites have been submitted to Marple Civic Society, History Society, Carnival Committee, Community Council, Business Forum and Veteran's Bowling Club.

It is proposed to enter 3 FOMMP Teams and Mark asked members to confirm if they could play as soon as possible.

3.14 Summer Social Event

This was planned for Sunday 31 July but Micaela does not know if she has that weekend off work yet. When she finds out it is proposed to email members with the details. *(Post meeting note: Unfortunately Micaela does have to work that weekend, so the event is on hold for the time being).*

4.0 Funding

Status of Funds

Current bank balance is £2,978. With £1,537 committed for plants and shrubs for the flowerbeds we have a working balance of £1,441.

Income since the last meeting is £57 from Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights and £5 from Mr Senior. Expenditure is £14.43 on paint for the Coronation bench and for touch-up of the Carver display.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Planting of Fruit Trees in the park

MESS (Marple, Mellor and Marple Bridge Energy Saving Strategy) have been in touch to ask if the group would be interested in planting fruit trees in the park. Mark liked this idea and suggested that the area alongside the footpath from the cinema to the canal would be a good location, so that people using the path could pick the fruit. This proposal was greeted with limited enthusiasm and Bob in particular was very much against more trees in the park. Adrian agreed to speak to the person at the council organising "Community Orchards" to get more information and Mark will wait until after this to report back to MESS on the group's response.

5.2 Cheadle & Marple College

Ann has been in touch with Cheadle & Marple College to see if they were interested in getting involved in the park. Hilary Fidler, the Adult Learning Co-ordinator & Library Manager, has responded positively to Ann so Mark followed this up with some details about what the group do and how the college might help. Hilary is heavily involved with preparations for the Tatton Show at the moment but has said that she or her assistant will be in touch with some ideas towards the end of July.

Bob advised that the college horticultural students used to visit the park to help in the past and would be welcome again if they decided to get involved.

5.3 Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Micaela highlighted that it is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year and it might be good to commemorate this in some way. We already have the Coronation bench in the park so perhaps we could tie something in with this.

5.4 Friends' Polo Shirts

Terry needs a new polo shirt, so Mark will check prices and order. *(Post meeting note: the shirts are now £15 each. Anyone wishing to buy one should let Mark know.)*

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 8 August at 6pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates in 2011:

08 August
12 September
10 October
14 November
12 December