

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 8 July 2019
Marple Library**

Present: Patrick O'Herlihy, Terry Wood, Mick Thompson, Joyce Reed, Micaela Wood, Diane Jackson, Cllr. Malcolm Allan, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Bob Wilson, Lorraine Thompson.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting (AGM): Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA

Currently expected to start in early September after the school holidays. A Pre-Construction meeting is due to be arranged by the council for August.

Mark had a meeting with Richard, Lewis and Jay on 13 June to discuss the comments received on the design from users via the Facebook page. Lewis came to this meeting with proposals for more extensive changes. These were discussed and due to concerns over cost and planning it was agreed that Richard would ask Canvas to look at a reduced list of changes that it was felt would have a lower impact on cost and would hopefully not effect the existing planning permission. However, during a verbal discussion with the designer Lewis reiterated his more extensive proposals and these have now been looked at by Canvas as well as the lesser ones that had been agreed.

We are now awaiting costs for these potential changes before having further discussions to decide how to proceed. There is a risk that further delays will occur.

3.2 Bowling Green and Buildings

Cracks in Bowling Hut gable end: Inspected after the meeting: Following Cllr Allan's intervention last month this work has at last been completed.

Pavilion Art Project: Our "CV" was issued to artist Tracy McGuinness-Kelly from Art Stop on 18 June to help her compile a grant application for the artwork project.

Nothing received from Tracy as yet and will ask for an update before next meeting.

Reminder: fixing of the artwork was a technical challenge at Rose Hill and this needs to be covered early on with Tracy to avoid similar problems.

3.3 Park Benches

Park benches general: Patrick advised that maintenance is going well and there are only 4 left to do. Two benches along the main path have been damaged. One needs sanding and the slat turning around, the other needs a replacement slat from our stock of spares. Patrick and Terry will do this in the coming week.

There is also a butterfly nature post by the library with rot to the base that has been knocked over. Terry will take a look at what is required to repair / reinstall this.

Town Centre benches: The Marshall Shaw bench has been completed and the family is very pleased. Sponsors for the last two benches on the Hollins have been found and their donations of £200 each received. Plaques have been ordered at a cost of £54.35 and £45.45. Refurbishment of the penultimate bench is currently underway.

We plan to treat all other benches in the Town Centre before the end of October.

Policy for replacement of existing commemorative benches:

Notices are ongoing until October 2019. We have had contact from one donor family and two other interested families have been added to a waiting list.

3.4 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

Replacement of Midnight: Mark has visited Myers Tree Care's depot to take a look at the arisings available. There are 6 or 7 oak logs of approximately 5' in length that David Myers is offering free of charge. We need to have a think about what we could do with them and how we should proceed, including a theme. Some initial suggestions include wildlife, armed forces, significant people or Marple through the ages.

The existing stump has now been ground out by the council.

Info board near to Lock 10: Mark will look at creating replacement artwork as soon as time allows. We also need to have a closer look at refurbishment of the lecterns.

Painting of Pavilion Building: We are struggling to make time for this at the moment but need to try and make some progress if we can.

Fitting out of Mess Room: We are still waiting for the council to advise if they have any budget to cover the full refit of the kitchen at £1,600+VAT or new cupboards at £220+VAT. Mark has again asked Wayne to follow this up.

In the meantime Mark has also appealed for surplus cupboard units on social media.

Breathing Places Reading Circle: Wayne has placed an order on our behalf to resurface the Reading Circle and pathway. We were given a lead time of around 4 to 5 weeks, so are expecting this to start in the near future.

Terry has done more work on the sculpture, including refitting the bird bath, filling larger holes and injecting the woodworm holes with worm treatment.

We have cleared the beds along the pathway in preparation for its widening.

Painting of Infants Play area fence: We are also struggling to find time for this task so far this year. We will need to start jet-washing for preparation so Mark will update and submit the risk assessment for doing this ourselves.

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, as described in the Marple Neighbourhood Plan and announced at Marple AC.

Steps near library: Patrick plans to start painting the edges of the steps down to the library with yellow hazard paint during the task day this coming Saturday.

Brickwork walls between Asda and the park: Cllr. Allan has asked Karen Barnes, the Public Realm Inspector, to look into the ownership of the land and responsibility for the wall and was expected some urgent repairs to be done near the steps. He will follow-up with Karen to find out where things are up to.

Possible Water Fountain / Bottle Station: A request has been submitted to Wayne Bardsley for installation costs for two different fountain / bottle-filler options. Wayne has asked for this but because the location is on a building (the toilet block) he also passed the details onto Paul Edgeworth, the council's Property Services Manager.

Paul has advised Wayne that he will require a detailed proposal for consideration and would be happy to discuss with us. However, he has also written a detailed letter in response that we would need to address. The key points are as follows:

- The council does not have a policy specifically addressing applications for outdoor water fountains.
- There have been no recent installations of outdoor fountains due to concerns about hygiene and Legionella management and ongoing costs.
- If a group were looking to promote the installation of such a device they (the council) would consider it against their existing H&S policies, including those dealing with water hygiene and the control of Legionella.

- The council would also have to consider the ongoing cost of maintenance and, due to budget pressures, they would be unable to accept any additional ongoing liabilities. So they would be unlikely to approve or support an application.

Paul goes on to say that public water fountains need an appropriate maintenance regime to ensure they are maintained in a clean and hygienic condition at all times. Fountains must be cleaned regularly, in the case of public fountains this is a daily requirement. This will attract a cost, in addition to the staff resource to manage these activities. The council does not have any recommendations to the type of fountain, if the group wishes to make a proposal to fund the installation and ongoing maintenance of a water fountain, the council's minimum technical requirement would be:

- Equipment must be designed and suitable for outdoor use/ weather resistance / vandal resistant.
- Accessible to wheel chair users- Equality Act 2010.
- WRAS Approved
- CE Approved
- BIM File & Technical Data supplied to SMBC
- Chillers should not be installed
- Spare parts should be available from the manufacturer.

Mark has discussed these requirements with Washware Essentials and they have provided a response. Most of them are fine but CE Approval is not available (To be CE approved there needs to be a Harmonised EU standard for the products. Unfortunately there are no Harmonised EU standard for drinking fountains and bottle fillers, so no-one can offer a CE marked product); and providing a BIM file is a problem (only one out of the three product we are looking at has BIM and DWG information. The other products will not have BIM or DWG data available for the foreseeable future due to the high cost. Washware Essentials say this should not be a problem for the local council who work with many products that do not have this information.)

Paul says he is aware of a scheme promoted by the Mayor of London that led to a number of public water fountains/bottle fillers being installed across London. These were done by MIW Water Experts with the maintenance being picked up by Thames Water- this scheme did not appear to be funded by the Boroughs or place any maintenance burden with them. He doesn't know of similar schemes operating in GM.

Investigation shows that a pilot scheme was launched in Bury, Greater Manchester, in March this year. Former SMBC Council leader Alex Ganotis was involved as the GMCA Green City Region Lead in the installation of the first bottle filling fountain in St Mary's Park in Prestwich. This was part of the "Refill" campaign, which is being launched across Greater Manchester. The scheme aims to build a network of free indoor and outdoor water refilling stations across the region to reduce the number of plastic bottles going into our waterways, which is exactly what we would like to do too.

It was agreed that there could be lots of learning to be obtained from Bury Council to avoid or reduce the pain of a prolonged debate with the council. Cllr Allan undertook to seek contacts at Bury Council who may be able to provide help and guidance about how they managed to overcome similar obstacles and objections.

Attempts to contact Refill's regional representative have so far been unsuccessful but will continue. United Utilities were also involved in the Bury pilot scheme.

Mark will share the learning so far with Cllr. Allan.

There is another group who would like to do this in Heaton Moor Park and they are also struggling with the same issues, so it may be good to share information.

3.5 Skatepark Development Project

Relocation of CCTV: Richard Booker asked TLC Security to quote for this back in February and also raised the request with the Public Protection Team. After following this up for us prior to the last meeting, Cllr. Allan was advised that a privacy assessment statement for the relocation will be reviewed at the July Marple AC.

It was noted this was first raised on 23 December 2017 after learning of serious ASB behaviour issues at the skatepark that were highlighted to local councillors at Marple Area Committee on 31 January 2018. At the time councillors were very supportive of the CCTV relocation but the statements made at the meeting are no longer available to view as the records are only kept for a year. Mark will enquire with Steve Fox if there is an archive record available. (*PMN: records are only kept for 12 months*).

3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Announcements: Penultimate man's 100th anniversary is in October 2019.

3.7 Task Days

Last Task Day – 29 June 2019:

The last task day was incredibly hot but although we finished early we still managed quite a bit of work. Di came along to canvas on the 50-50 Club too. Gill found the heat uncomfortable and had to stop and stay in the shade but was OK later in the day.

Ad-hoc Task Days: We've done several extra days on the Town Centre benches and Patrick and Terry will be doing park benches tomorrow.

Next Task Days – 13 July and 27 July 2019:

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

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments:

Apart from Jet-washing, our Risk Assessments are up-to-date. The Task Day application for 1 July to 31 December 2019 has now been approved. (*PMN: Jet-washing RA has been updated and issued and added to current approved application*).

Scheduled Saturday Task Days in 2019: 13 & 27 July, 17 & 31 August, 14 & 28 September, 12 & 26 October, 9 & 30 November & 28 December.

Training: Awaiting new dates from Wayne Bardsley.

Tools / Power Tools: Nothing new.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Current balances Barclays: £8,292.77 + Santander: £460 = £8,752.77. Committed funds are £1,000 for the Reading Circle, leaving a working balance of £7,753.

Income since the last meeting:

£20.66 Easy Fundraising.
£70.62 Local Giving.
£60.00 Treasure Hunt (Bloom Hearing).
£200.00 Carrington family Town Centre bench donation.
£200.00 Carter family Town Centre bench donation.
£15.00 Brass Bands of Marple.

Expenditure since the last meeting:

£40.00 Small lottery license.
£200.60 Public Liability Insurance.
£54.35 Carrington plaque.
£45.45 Carter plaque.
£74.80 New flagpole halyard (someone had broken cover off existing one).

50-50 Club: We are now registered with SMBC to run our 50-50 Club.

Di and Lorraine promoted at the Carnival and Di also did the last task day.

We currently have 11 expressions of interest (plus two more from the meeting).

Mark is currently working on the online registration forms and will email volunteers / supporters. It is also hoped to ask for interest online and social media this week.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Lock 11 Reinstatement

The reinstatement has now been completed, although we are not certain if the seeding has been done yet. CRT undertook to seed the main grassed area with utility grass seed and the woodland area with wild-flower seed. New trees and shrubs will be planted in the autumn by the council (but funded by CRT).

Mick advised he had received complaints about stones, lumps and bumps in the soil and wondered if it was considered satisfactory. Mark will ask Wayne to check if the seeding has been done and to confirm he is happy with the way it has been left.

5.2 Tour of Great Britain

The Tour of Great Britain will pass through Marple and along Station Road next to the park on Saturday 14 September. Micaela advised that Cale Green Park has some fabulous planters and wondered if we could do something similar in the park or in the town centre to celebrate. This was discussed and it was felt that there was insufficient time to do anything in the park and it was not in our remit to tackle this in the town centre. It was agreed that it was a shame that the shop owners do not do more regarding hanging baskets and planters in the way they used to do several years ago.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 9 September 2019 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

There would be no meeting in August.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2019/20 (library booked):

12 August (cancelled), 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December, 13 January 2020, 10 February, 9 March, 13 April, 11 May, 8 June 2020.