

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park AGM
Monday 14th June 2010
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Patrick O’Herlihy, Jonathan Long.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Roundabout in Infants Play Area

The last promise from Gareth at Playground Maintenance was for replacement of the roundabout before the summer holidays. As the holidays are now approaching Mark has asked Jonathan to follow this up with Gareth and he has agreed to do so.

3.2 Improvements to the Park Entrance

Shrub Beds - It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Jonathan on the evening of Tuesday 22 June at 6.30pm, to discuss further work on the shrub beds near the entrance and alongside the cinema.

(Post meeting notes from 22 June 2010:

Work on the shrub beds was reviewed and further pruning, weeding, spraying and mulching was agreed for future task days.

Planting of bulbs and bedding flowers was agreed in order to provide some colour to the newly cleared areas alongside the cinema.

In the longer term it was agreed to plant new shrubs, such as Azaleas, but this cannot be done until the autumn.

Branches overhanging the footpath on the corner of Stockport Road are causing pedestrians to have to duck under them and their removal was agreed to be necessary.

Jonathan will try to source some additional and larger bins for the park, as the existing ones are well used but regularly overflowing.

Jonathan will arrange spraying of the reading circle and pathway behind the library to suppress the growth of weeds.

It was agreed to investigate the cost of replacing the bowling green boards and to seek funds or grants towards this.

The steps down to the bowling green were discussed and it was agreed to paint the narrower set. The wider steps are badly decaying and need modification or repair. Jonathan is considering the options for this.

It was agreed to weed, spray and mulch the area next to the council offices that we had been told was to become a bicycle parking space as it has been left untouched since being cleared and now looks unsightly.)

Drainage Improvements – Three options have been identified to deal with the drainage problems at the entrance to the park and these have been priced as:

New gulley with mains connection: £5,422.50 + VAT
New gulley with soakaway: £1,839.50 + VAT
Adjust existing gulley: £566.00 + VAT

Adrian advised that the best value for money option was thought to be the new gulley with soakaway. It was felt that money raised by the group with tombolas at local events and from donations should not be used for infrastructure projects such as this but the options would be put to the District Partnership to see if they would be able to help to support Parks and Recreation to find the funds required.

Carver Commemoration - Mark presented further ideas for creating a commemoration to the Carvers and improving the entrance. This involves removal and relocation of the existing notice board, which is functional but unattractive, and replacing it with a combined notice board and interpretation panel. The panel would feature a "new" photograph of the Carver & Barlow family taken in 1904 that has been provided by Marple Local History Society and a map of the park similar to the one in the leaflet produced by the council.

A new location for the existing notice board will need to be considered.

The best budget price obtained for the new board is £1,712 + VAT + delivery. This is for an A0 landscape sized panel and an A1 portrait display case. Mark felt that it might be best to get an artist involved in the design, although he may be able to do it if the council can provide the electronic artwork for the map that was used in the leaflet.

Adrian will speak to Jacky Budd to see if the artwork can be provided.

The fee for the Brabyns Park panel featuring Fanny Hudson was £600, so a total price of around £2,300 is likely if an artist needs to be used.

Mark will submit this to Patrick and Brian Nash as our preferred project for funding by the District Centre Partnership and ask for a contribution of up to £1,000, along with the details for the drainage improvements.

3.3 Task Days

Previous Task Days

24 April 2010

Superb weather and Marple Hall School again turned out in force and replanted the Oldknow Shuttle Stone. Other activities included treatment of the tree sculpture and more work to the shrub beds.

29 May 2010

Poor weather this time, with constant rain, but two Marple Hall pupils and their teacher still turned up to help weed the ornamental beds and prepare them for summer bedding. Well-done Marple Hall!

Next Task Day – 26 June 2010

Hopefully better weather will allow us to make progress on sanding down and treating the sculpture in the Breathing Places area behind the library. More work is also planned on the shrub beds.

It is also hoped that the Pear sculpture can be re-installed.

Free parking for specified vehicles has been confirmed.

3.4 Painting of Bowling Green Huts

Mark has contacted Ken Else of the bowling club, who has said that he will put up a notice in the club hut asking for volunteers to help paint the buildings and will advise if there is any interest.

Jonathan has given Adrian the go-ahead to order the paint and materials and he will now work out what is required. It was confirmed that colours would be black (to replace the light green) with white trim.

The Perspex panel in Bob's hut window still needs to be replaced before the frame can be painted. Jonathan and Adrian will address this.

3.5 Tools

All tools are now confirmed as delivered. Adrian advised that the total cost is £384.60 and an invoice will be raised and issued to the group. This is approximately £85 less than anticipated and on receipt of the invoice Mark will contact Iain Bate to ask if the surplus must be used to buy more tools or if it can be put towards new projects.

3.6 Park Cottage

The planning application for the plot near the cinema has been delayed as the council have requested a noise study to be included with the submission. The bands are making arrangements for this to be done.

4.0 Funding

4.1 Status of Funds

Current bank balance:	£2,692
Committed Funds:	£470 (Tools)
Working balance:	£2,222

Income since the last meeting includes £9.96 from Marple Wine Club commission and £41.50 from a Ring o' Bells quiz night donation. There has been no expenditure in the period.

4.2 Funding of Projects by the District Partnership

As covered earlier in these minutes, a request for funding towards a new entrance notice board and drainage repairs will be submitted to the District Partnership.

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob advised that there is a problem with Japanese Knotweed behind the Senior Citizens that he has been asked to deal with.

A small tree near to the skate park has been damaged but will not be replaced it as it is believed anything added will suffer the same fate.

Bob advised that he and Gavin are now working on planting up the ornamental beds but felt that they would struggle to complete by Carnival Day. Micaela volunteered to help on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings this week and this offer was gratefully accepted.

(Post meeting note: with help from Micaela and from Lisa Bintliff of Marple Beaver Scouts the planting was successfully completed in time for the Carnival – so well done to Micaela, Lisa, Bob and Gavin.)

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Carnival

Mark has agreed a location near to the Boules Court with the Carnival Committee and he and Bob will cordon it off on Friday afternoon.

Micaela is well on with preparations for the tombola and she and Terry have two days off to complete getting everything ready. Micaela and Terry will bring tables and equipment for the tombola and Mark will bring gazebos and displays about the Friends' activities.

It was agreed to meet at approx 7.30am.

(Post meeting note: The Carnival event was a great success and £312.78 was raised on the tombola stall. Local shops and businesses donated some incredible prizes to help achieve this.)

6.2 Christmas Cracker

The date for the Christmas Cracker is 11 December 2010. It was agreed not to enter a stall this year due to other commitments.

7.0 Date of next Meeting:

Monday 9th August 2010 at 6pm in Marple Library.