

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting (AGM)
Monday 12th March 2007
Marple Library**

Present: Adrian Ellis (Acting Chair), Jay Havoleana, Robert Wilson, Chris Armitt, Peter Bardsley, Micaela Wood, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Dave Burrows, Bill Ardern.

2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and approved.

3.0 Annual General Meeting

3.1 Chairman's Report

Adrian thanked the outgoing Chairman and Secretary Peter & Sue Clarke for all their past efforts on behalf of the Friends of the Park. Peter and Sue resigned from their roles partway through the year due to their increased workload after taking over the Ring o' Bells.

The group also thanked Dave Burrows and Adrian Ellis for stepping in to chair the meetings in an acting capacity when the vacant position could not be filled.

Adrian summarised the Friends' activities since the last AGM in January 2006, which confirmed that it had been a very successful year:

- Jim Heald's Bench was installed and commemorative plaques fitted.
- Newsletter no. 3 was distributed to 500 homes surrounding the park.
- The Friends' logo appeared on a sponsored Carnival banner.
- The base of the Marple Hall Sundial was repaired.
- A circular bench with plaques was installed around the oak tree planted in 1953 to commemorate the Queen's coronation. (Funded by Green Space Development Grant)
- Two interpretation boards have been installed, one about the dedication of the park near the War Memorial and the other about the canal and locks near the lock 10 canal side entrance.
- Several trees have been selectively removed to maintain and improve the views from the park. This was phase 1 and phase 2 is due this autumn.
- The War Memorial base structure has been repaired and refurbished and new handrails have been fitted.
- The Tatton Show Locks Flowerbed was reconstructed in the park. It has since been removed ready for transfer to Oldknow Gardens.
- The Park received its third successive Green Flag Award.

- A wreath was laid on behalf of the Friends during the Remembrance Day ceremony.
- A grant application has been submitted to the BBC Breathing Places scheme for a woodland reading area at the rear of the library.
- A grant application has been submitted to the Stockport Fund for metal replica lock gates for the Locks Flowerbed display.
- The first social event was held – the Friends’ Christmas Dinner.
- Task Days have been held once per month since last October, the most recent one also involving youngsters under the guidance of the Youth Offending Team. Work completed has included planting of daffodils and bluebells, clearing of the locks display area, tidying of the War Memorial flowerbeds and general pruning and maintenance.

3.2 Treasurer’s Report

Mark advised that the McInnes Partnership, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, have examined the Friends’ accounts and a certified income and expenditure sheet produced for the year 1st January to 31st December 2006. Copies were passed round.

It was agreed to include an advert in the next newsletter to thank the McInnes Partnership for providing this service free of charge for the third year running.

Total income for the year was low, at only £60 including interest.

Fortunately good reserves from the previous year allowed us to spend a total of £1,012 in the year. £763 on the Coronation Bench, £125 on the final stages of Jim Heald’s bench, £50 on the Carnival advertising banner and £50 on sponsorship of the Community Bus. We also purchased the wreath for Remembrance Day and had some small postage costs.

The balance at the end of December 2006 was £574.67, of which £485 is currently reserved for match funding on the Breathing Places bid, giving us a disposable balance of nearly £90.

This year’s income has already exceeded last year, with nearly £10 from Marple Wine Club commission and £92 donated by Mark’s colleagues at work. This gives us a balance of £678 in the bank and a current disposable balance of nearly £200.

Funds will be boosted by two quizzes to be held at the Ring o’ Bells on 21st and 28th March and we need as many people as possible to turn up.

Micaela and Jay are now authorised signatories on the Friends account.

3.3 Election of Officials

3.3.1 Chairman

There were no volunteers for the role of Chairman. Adrian advised that Dave Burrows had agreed to continue chairing the meetings in an acting role until this vacancy could be filled. This was agreed by all present. Adrian would continue to stand in for Dave when necessary.

3.3.2 Treasurer

Mark advised that he was happy to continue as treasurer for a further term. There were no other candidates and this was agreed by all present.

3.3.3 Secretary

Jay volunteered to undertake the role of Secretary. There were no other candidates and this was agreed by all present. It was agreed that Mark would continue to act as minutes secretary.

3.3.4 Committee

In accordance with requirements of the constitution, the following members were confirmed as committee members:

Chris Armitt
Peter Bardsley
Jay Havoleana
Mark Whittaker
Micaela Wood

It was also agreed that Micaela would act as Social Secretary.

With the election of officials completed the AGM was declared closed and the meeting continued with normal business.

4.0 Matters Arising.

4.1 Task Days

4.1.1 Last Task Day & Feedback to YOT

The last task day on Saturday 24th February was attended by a group of young people under the guidance of the Youth Offending Team. This was a success, with light work being made of the preparation of the flowerbeds. It was agreed that the Friends would welcome the YOT's involvement again. Several of the youngsters expressed an interest in returning to help plant up the beds that they had helped to prepare and it was agreed that they

should be invited back for that. Adrian confirmed he would feed this back to Brian Pendlebury via Dave when he returned from holiday.

4.1.2 Future Task Days

It was agreed that the next Task Day would be held on Saturday 24th March and thereafter they would be held on the last Saturday of each month. Dates for the following three Task Days are therefore 28th April, 26th May and 30th June 2007.

The Task Day on 24th March will include returning of the rockery stones to the borders of the War Memorial beds. The 28th April Task Day is planned to include planting up the beds and the YOT will be invited.

4.1.3 Advertising of Task Days

Micaela suggested using an A-board to publicise the Task Days. Chris said the Carnival might have some that they no longer use and he would speak to Bill about their availability. Mark will also find out where the Locks Society got theirs made.

4.2 Teen Rotator

Adrian passed around a photographic impression of the Teen Rotator installed in the position proposed, in the area between the teen shelter and the skate park. It was agreed that this was a good location for it.

A contractor has been asked to provide a quote and this is expected in April.

4.3 Beech Tree Sculpture

Andrew Frost has provided a quotation and a preliminary design. The total cost of his proposed work is £3,000. Details are now on the web site.

Mark submitted an application to Marple Area Committee for a Kick Start grant from their Flexibility Funding and an award of £1,000 was approved at the meeting on 7th March. The committee members were enthusiastic about the project and the Friends are grateful for their continued support.

Marple Business Forum has declined to contribute as they have limited funds available. However, they are supportive of the project and have said that if we have a small shortfall after exhausting other avenues to approach them again, as they may be able to help.

Marple District Partnership has been approached regarding help with funding and a confirmed response is awaited.

David Brayshay has agreed to put the group in touch with other sources of funding that may be able to contribute towards the balance of £2,000 currently needed to bring the project to fruition.

Robert Wilson advised that he has spoken to Jim Mcgarrie about removing the large bows of the tree ready for the sculpture and this would be done early in April.

4.4 "Lock 17" Flowerbed

Mark has been in touch with the Community Foundation several times and the "Stockport Fund" panel have considered the application for funding of the replica lock gates. At present the decision of the panel has not been released as it still has to be approved. It is hoped that we will learn the outcome by the end of the month.

Marple Locks Heritage Society and Gordon Mills' family have agreed to the proposal to dedicate the display to Gordon. Peter Clarke and Mark will be giving a presentation about the Marple Website's heritage activities to Marple Local History Society that will include details of this on Monday 19th March at the Evangelical Church on Queen's Street, 7.45pm start. Non-members of the Society can attend for a small charge.

4.5 Infants Play Area

Jay, Mark, Adrian and Mary Prat, a local mum keen to see a new play area installed, met with Rebecca Nedeljkovic one of the council's Landscape Officers this afternoon in the Play Area.

Some of the ideas discussed include continuing the theme proposed for the Breathing Places and the Beech Tree wood sculptures and utilising shrubs and bushes for play (which Mary has observed the children doing already).

It is uncertain if the scheme can be developed in a way that would satisfy the "Playful Ideas" Lottery scheme for creative and innovative play. A replacement play area in a park could be considered fairly conventional and it may be that other sources of funding will have to be sought.

Rebecca will discuss this with her colleagues and prepare some schemes for the group to review and consider for putting out to consultation.

It was agreed that parents and users of the park who approached the Parks and Recreation Team or the Friends about the play area should be encouraged to write to local councillors or visit their surgeries on Saturday mornings to express how important they considered its replacement to be.

Chris Armitt enquired about the "allotted life span" of the old equipment, which has been in place for 18 years, and noted that this appears to have

changed over the course of time that it has been discussed at the Friends' meetings. Adrian confirmed that this was possible as it was an insurers' assessment given at an annual review and not a fixed period.

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob Wilson reported that:

- The bowling green has had its spring feed ready for the new season, which starts on 3rd April. The bowlers have their first meeting on 19th March and are hoping to get on the green early to start practicing.
- The Cheadle & Marple College students are due to return to undertake more practical training in the park.
- There have been a few problems with students on the junior play equipment again but they have responded acceptably to being asked to leave.
- The rope swing that was damaged by teenagers is ready for reinstallation; this will probably take place in April.
- The daffodils planted by Bob and by the Friends during the task day are coming up and look like making a good show and the bluebells are just starting to appear.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Additional Notice Board

Micaela suggested that another notice board near to the library and play areas would be beneficial to the group for publicising the Task Days and other notices as it would help reach a wider audience.

This was agreed and Adrian thinks he has one available. A suitable location near the play areas will be investigated so that it can be agreed and possibly installed during the Task Day on 24th March.

6.2 Council Offices

Chris asked about the work being carried out on the council offices. How long is it expected to take and will it still be ongoing by Carnival Day? Adrian agreed to find out.

6.3 Water logging by seat

The problem of waterlogging in the park was discussed and a specific problem around the seat near Oldknow's stone noted. There is little that can be done regarding the drainage in the park generally but it may be possible to improve the access to the seat. Adrian & Bob will investigate.

6.4 Free Picnic Bench

Peter Bardsley advised that he had an unwanted picnic bench that he would like to donate to the park. It was agreed that this could be used and Adrian will make arrangements with Peter to collect it.

6.5 Newsletter

Adrian advised that Brian Nash was happy to arrange for the printing of 1,000 copies of the new newsletter, providing it was in the next financial year.

Mark hopes to start on the newsletter this month. Articles are still awaited for the Locks Festival and Carnival.

6.6 Woodland Trust "Tree for All"

Mark advised that there was an opportunity to seek up to £100 funding for a tree-planting event during the winter of 2007/8 from the Woodland Trust's "Tree for All" scheme. The grant could cover the purchase of trees, planting materials and publicity costs for a community tree-planting event in the park.

Adrian will investigate what could be purchased for around £100 and where in the park it might be suitable to hold such an event. Mark will distribute copies of the application details with the minutes for everyone to review before the next meeting. Applications must be submitted by 30th April, 31st July or 31st October and the grant be spent by 31st March 2008.

6.7 Trees on TV

Micaela advised that there was a TV series about trees running on Monday nights 7.00 – 7.30pm on BBC 2 called "Trees that made Britain", which may be of interest to members of the group.

7.0 Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 16th April 2007 at 6:30 in Marple Library.

7.1 Reminders for next meeting

- Next Green Space Development Grant deadline is Friday 1st June.
- Flag pole still to be removed.
- One old lamppost removed, one still to remove.
- Flat roof repair to park cottage.
- Access to cottage.



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Events grants

Grant Information and Terms and Conditions:

The Woodland Trust Community Tree Planting Grant is open until the **end of January 08** - so it's not too late to apply for a grant of up to £100 for your community event.

What is it?

The Woodland Trust is offering grants for community tree planting initiatives for the winter of 2007/8. If your community group is holding a tree planting event this winter we can offer funding to help carry out your project. To be eligible you have to first register your event with us [here](#).

How much is available?

Each group can apply for one grant of up to £100 for a tree planting event. If you are organising more than one event you can apply for another grant, however the application will need to be submitted in a different quarter as we are only accepting one application per group per quarter. We would also prefer you to contact us directly to discuss multiple projects.

Who can apply?

Community groups, associations and not for profit organisations, for example; a community action group, local residents group, environmental action group, scouts, brownies, etc. (Please note this fund is not open to schools - however you may be interested in one of our free tree packs specifically for schools, please go to www.woodland-trust.org.uk/hedge)

What type of projects are applicable?

Tree planting projects organised by the community. The project should involve the planting of primarily native broadleaf trees, and are on sites that have all the necessary consents from the landowner for the planting activity.

What project costs does the grant cover?

The grant covers costs directly related to the tree planting project. For example;

- Purchase of native trees (preferably small transplants rather than larger specimen trees)
- Maximum cost per tree of £5 (or contribution towards each tree purchased)
- Purchase of other tree planting materials
- Publicity costs

Criteria Checklist

Please ensure you meet the following criteria:

- You have registered your event with us - [link](#)
- You are a constituted community group
- You have a bank account
- You have insurance cover for your activities
- The event will involve the planting of primarily broadleaf trees (70%)
- You have the landowner's consent
- It is on land suitable for tree planting
- You have a plan for the maintenance of the trees once planted

Timescales

Applications will be judged quarterly and decisions made soon after. Applications will need to be with us for this financial year, either for 30th April 2007, 31st July 2007, 31st October 2007 or 31st January 2008. The grant will need to be spent by 31st March 2008. The grants are offered on a first come first served basis.

Reporting procedure

When the event has taken place we require a short report (no more than one sheet of A4) summarising what the money was spent on and what happened at the event.

We will also require receipts for the items purchased up to the value of your grant allocation. Photos of the event would also be welcome. Reports will need to be submitted by 30th April 2008.

For further information or any queries you have on the grant please contact the Woodland Trust on 01476 581155.

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