

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park AGM  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010  
Marple Library**

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

**1.0 Apologies:** Patrick O'Herlihy, Jonathan Long.

**1.1 Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed.

**2.0 Annual General Meeting**

**2.1 Chairman's Report**

Adrian thanked everyone for their support of the park over the last year and gave a report on the group's achievements during 2009:

- The graphics in the Infants Play Area were replaced.
- The Apple and Pear Sculptures were installed.
- Three commemorative seats funded with the help of Marple Civic Society and Mr. J. Louth were installed alongside the French Boules Court. One of these was later vandalised but Terry did a great job repairing the damage done.
- Marple Business Forum used the French Boules Court for a social event in April and photos from this were later used on a new interpretation panel next to the court that explains the rules of the game. The group also took part in games with the public during the Locks Festival in July.
- The War Memorial rockery beds were rearranged into a new scheme with new planting.
- The Coronation Bench was repainted.
- Ian Hilton completed over 12 months of bird surveys on behalf of the group and a summary schedule was produced of the findings.
- A wildflower survey was conducted.
- The Lock 17 project carried out jointly with Marple Locks Heritage Society was completed in September with a ceremony to unveil Gordon Mills' plaque.
- The park won its 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive Green Flag Award.
- A task day was held with the Beaver Scouts, who helped to plant bluebells and snowdrops that they had supplied. 2,000 bluebell bulbs provided by the group were also planted later (as they arrived too late due to the postal strike).
- A tombola stall was manned at the Food Festival to raise funds.
- A wreath was laid on Remembrance Day on behalf of the group.

- A grant of £470 towards tools was received from the Greenspace Developments Scheme and the tools have been purchased.
- The group held a task day every month except for December.
- Christmas lunch was held at the Hare & Hounds, Mill Brow and a couple of Curry Nights have also been held after task days.
- Work has begun on improvements to the large shrub beds near the cinema and further into the park alongside the main pathway.

## **2.2 Treasurer's Report**

The McInnes Partnership has examined the Friends' accounts for 1st January to 31st December 2009, and a certified income and expenditure sheet for the year is attached to the agenda. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year the McInnes Partnership has provided this service free of charge and the group recorded their appreciation of this.

Income during 2009 was £1,738, taking the total money raised since the group began to £23,847. This does not include the funding from Stockport Council or Living Spaces for the two play areas or the commuted sum for the basketball fence.

The highlights in the year have been:

- £470 Green Space Development Grant for tools.
- £453 raised by the tombola at Food Festival.
- £250 from Marple Business Forum towards boules display.
- £250 from Mr. J. Louth.

We spent £3,253 in the year, taking our total spending on the park to £20,407. The biggest outgoings were:

- £2,051 on the French Boules seating.
- £915 on the Breathing Places display panel.
- £191 contribution to the basketball court fencing.

At the end of the year we had a bank balance of £3,440 with £1,260 of that committed, giving us a working balance of £2,180.

Our committed funds were:

- £790 for the Boules Court display panel.
- £470 for tools.

## **2.3 Election of Officials**

### **2.3.1 Chairman**

Adrian advised that he was happy to continue acting as Chairman. There were no other candidates and this was agreed by all present.

### **2.3.2 Treasurer / Minutes Secretary**

Mark advised that he was happy to continue as treasurer. There were no other candidates and this was agreed by all present. Mark will also continue to write minutes and letters on behalf of the group.

### **2.3.3 Secretary / Social Secretary**

Micaela advised that she was happy to continue as Secretary and Social Secretary and this was agreed by all present.

### **2.3.5 Committee**

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

Peter Bardsley  
Adrian Ellis  
Patrick O'Herlihy  
Mark Whittaker  
Bob Wilson  
Micaela Wood

Patrick was unable to attend the AGM as he was chairing the District Partnership meeting at the same time but confirmed in advance that he would like to remain on the committee. This was agreed by all present.

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

## **3.0 Matters Arising.**

### **3.1 Roundabout in Infants Play Area**

Adrian has made enquiries via Jonathan and Gareth at Playground Maintenance has confirmed that the roundabout will be replaced. His latest forecast is before the summer holidays.

### **3.2 Treatment of Sculptures and Benches**

Steve could not attend the last task day but has said he will bring his jet washer to the March task day so that the tree sculptures can be cleaned.

The Breathing Places bird-box on the side of the library was treated during the last task day but looks like it could do with another coat.

Terry is proposing to rubdown and treat some of the benches during the evenings later in the year, when there is more light, so it is hoped that the wooden ones purchased by the group will get done this way or during the task days, weather permitting.

### **3.3 Boules Court.**

The invoice for £790 for the Boules interpretation panel has now been received and a cheque was signed at the meeting.

### **3.4 Improvements to the Park Entrance**

Work on the cinema shrub beds began during the February task day. Bob and Jordan have done more work since but there is still a fair bit to do and it will continue at the March task day. Adrian and Bob will look at getting access with the tractor to remove the large roots that remain.

Adrian will try to arrange for a chainsaw during the March task day so that the log bench near the entrance can be cut up and transported to the Breathing Places area to create insect habitats.

Mark has investigated the cost of creating a replica of the Oldknow memorial and received prices ranging from £2,500 +VAT to £5,500 +VAT. After discussions with Terry during the task day it has been agreed that commemorating Thomas Carver at the entrance to the park would be more appropriate than Oldknow. It was agreed that a possible future project could create a replica of the memorial near to Oldknow's Shuttle Stone, thereby linking the two items together. For the immediate future it was agreed to focus on the entrance.

The cost of the design input for the Fanny Hudson display panel in Brabyns Park was £600, plus the cost of the panel itself. Mark will investigate with the person who provided the artwork if it would be possible to create a suitable image of the Carvers for the group to incorporate into a panel design themselves, to keep the costs down.

### **3.5 Task Days**

#### **Previous Task Day – 27 February 2010**

Work commenced on the shrub bed near the cinema and the Breathing Places bird box was treated.

#### **Next Task Day – 27 March 2010**

Plans include continuing on the cinema bed, sculptures to be jet washed, wooden items to be treated and log bench to be removed if a chainsaw can be obtained, all subject to weather and numbers attending.

Mark will submit the parking request, send the task day email and provide Micaela with some posters to distribute.

### **3.6 Bird Survey**

No further reports. Adrian produced a spreadsheet summary of the surveys showing over 12 months of results on a single sheet that was simple and easy to read. This was appended to the previous minutes.

### **3.7 Painting of Bowling Green Huts**

Jonathan has confirmed that he will provide the painting materials for the Bowling Green buildings in the new financial year.

Adrian will pass the Bowling Green Club's contact details on to Mark so that he can ask them if they wish to be involved in the repainting.

### **3.8 Senior Citizens' Bench**

Nothing further has been heard from the Senior Citizens so Patrick has followed up with another letter enquiring about their progress.

### **3.9 Tools**

Adrian advised that the majority of the tools have now been delivered.

Adrian and Bob will create an inventory to confirm what has been ordered, what has arrived and the costs. Once we are sure that everything is accounted for and it is confirmed that the money has all been spent an invoice will be arranged for payment.

### **3.10 Funding of Projects by the District Partnership**

Patrick will report back on this following the District Partnership meeting.

### **3.11 Park Cottage**

The consultation period for the planning application to turn the cottage into a band practice room is now finished. Four responses have been received, 3 against and 1 for. A decision is expected by 24 March.

## **4 Fundraising Activities**

### **4.1 Status of Funds**

Refer to Treasurer's report earlier in these minutes.

### **4.2 Food and Drink Festival**

Dates for the festival are now available. Unfortunately Micaela has a family celebration that will clash with the Market Street event so alternative arrangements for manning the tombola stall will have to be considered if we are to take part this year.

## **5.0 Monthly Park Report**

Bob and Jordan have continued work on the cinema shrub bed and have also been crown-lifting some of the trees along the nature trail by the cinema and alongside the canal to improve walking access.

Bob advised that the bowling green has suffered due to the weather and people playing on it in the snow and it is going to be a challenge to have it in good condition for the start of the bowling season in April.

Adrian confirmed that Jonathan has ordered the box hedging for the Breathing Places Reading Circle requested by Bob.

A discussion took place regarding council budget cuts and there is concern that one of the things that will be hit is bedding plants for the park's ornamental beds. No decisions have been made yet and the situation will have to be monitored.

## **Any Other Business**

### **6.1 Marple Garden Centre**

A new letter has been sent to Marple Garden Centre asking for support following the change of ownership from Wyevale. However, from their web site it appears only to have been a change in name so the response may be the same as before.

### **6.2 Marple Civic Society Design Awards**

Mark highlighted Marple Civic Society's new Design Awards Scheme that has recently been announced in The Review newspaper and on the Marple Website. The society are presently asking for nominations from the public in a number of categories and later in the year there will be public voting to decide the winning entries.

It was agreed to nominate the Tree Sculpture near to the Bowling Green in the Public Art category and the park as a whole in the Urban Landscape category. One of the criteria for submission is that the work must have been completed since 1 January 2005. It is hoped that the improvements made to the park since this date will enable the park to qualify for inclusion.

### **6.3 Naming of entrance road**

There was no new information on this for the meeting; however, the council representative dealing with the consultation has since advised the following via telephone:

#### ***(Post meeting note:***

*Objections to naming the road have been received on the grounds of:*

- a) The proposed name is too similar to "Walmsley Court" nearby – policy now is to avoid similar names in the same area;*
- b) The Senior Citizens Hall do not want a change of address at all;*
- c) The Citizen's Advice Centre has suggested "Memorial Drive".*

*The council representative has advised that unless there is full agreement received in writing then nothing can go ahead.*

*In order to avoid being embroiled in further debate Mark has advised that the group would be satisfied with the name "Memorial Park Drive" or for the road not to be named at all. It was recommended that the representative discuss the situation with Cllr. Bispham, who has previously taken a particular interest in this issue.)*

### **7.0 Date of next Meeting:**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at 6pm in Marple Library.