

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 12th March 2018
Marple Library**

Present: Mick Thompson, Lorraine Thompson, Micaela Wood, Joyce Reed,
Cllr. Geoff Abell, Steve Gribbon, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Cllr. Allan, Bob Wilson, Patrick O'Herlihy, Terry Wood.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA

We have developed plans for improving the small top section of the skatepark and converting the basketball court to a MUGA (Multi-User GAMES) Facility. Budget costs are £35k for the skatepark phase II and £35k for the MUGA = £70k+ in total.

An application for planning permission was submitted on 14 December 2017 and the decision is now overdue according to the planning portal.

Planners have received comments from two residents, one in favour and one against. The negative comments were passed to us for consideration and draft responses were passed to Richard Booker from Greenspace last week. Mark had a meeting with Richard and Wayne Bardsley this morning to discuss these in more detail. Richard will compile a full response back to the planners.

An article about Phase II plans is due to be published in the Review newspaper.

Funding options will be investigated further if planning permission is granted.

3.2 Bowling Green

New flowerbed

Top-soil will be delivered ready for the 31 March task day.

Fixing down of relocated benches

Old chains have been removed and passed to Bowlers for use on their new benches.

3.3 Play Areas and Play Equipment

There is currently £1,700 in the commuted sums pot for children's play in our park.

The way that section 106 sums are allocated has changed and this pot will not grow any further. In future each section 106 payment has to be allocated for a very specific purpose and a maximum of 5 payments can be allocated to the same purpose. This is going to make life much more difficult but has been driven by Government legislation.

Mark has met with Richard Booker to better understand this new process and to develop a strategy to accommodate it. It is proposed to put the existing sum towards replacing the old springers section in the Infants Play Area. As £1,700 is not very much for this purpose we will endeavour to raise additional funds and look at allocating some of our existing funds towards it too. Richard has agreed to develop some suitable costed schemes for us to select from and possibly consult on.

It has also been agreed that sums becoming available under the new process will initially be allocated to the addition of musical equipment items. These have the advantage of not needing safe surfaces, so they can be located throughout the play area and installed in phases as funding becomes available.

3.4 Julian Wadden Family Treasure Hunt

The date of Saturday 28 April has been set for this year's Family Treasure Hunt.

Funds raised this year will be allocated towards new Infants Play equipment.

Julian Wadden and Di Jackson have started the ball rolling on fund-raising and sponsorship by local businesses and Di is off to a great start.

The risk assessment has been completed and passed with our insurance details to JW so that they can submit the event application to the council.

Micaela is happy to cover the first aid requirement for the event.

3.5 Encouraging new volunteers

Little Growers

The idea of asking children and parents to plant and nurture seeds at home that can later be re-planted in the park is very popular. It was agreed that Joyce, Lorraine, Micaela, Gill and Mark would meet on Thursday to discuss in more detail.

(PMN: It has been agreed to do this at the next 3 Task Days – 31 March, 14 and 28 April. Seeds, paper cups, compost and other materials will be sourced. Posters will be placed in the park, an A-frame made and the details promoted on social media.)

Marple College students

Mark is due to meet with someone from the college on Wednesday to discuss artwork for the park and will ask about this then.

Planting for 100th Anniversary of Votes for Women

It was agreed to allocate the circular flowerbed for this purpose and details will be discussed at the meeting for Little-Growers.

(PMN: It has been agreed to plant the circular bed in purple, green and white to commemorate votes for women. Terry will be asked to construct an A3 poster holder that can be installed in the bed to explain more about this.)

3.6 Park Benches

Kay bench

No change – we can begin to tackle this during future task days.

Grey painted benches at Fletcher Moss Park

Some feedback from Friends of Fletcher Moss Park has been received on the benches and a visit is to be organised when the weather improves.

Hard-standings for benches

Flags and sand have been delivered, so we can now tackle the first bench.

3.7 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

Replacement of Midnight

It looks likely that we will need to remove the sculpture this year. Mark has mentioned this to Myers Tree Care again and we hope they will be able to source a large piece of timber suitable for creating a replacement sculpture.

Painting of Pavilion Buildings

We have 2 part full tins of black gloss and 1 part full tin of white. This should be enough to make a start next year but we will ask Greenspace to order more next FY.

The Bowlers have been invited to help. There are some issues with the state of some of the windows, which are badly rotted, and we may need to discuss with the council.

Breathing Places reading circle

Renewal of the hard-standing surface will be raised again next FY, when funding may be available from Greenspace to help.

York stone stolen from park entrance

Work has now commenced. *(PMN: The contractor has smeared concrete all over the benches and the wall to the side and there are leaves and rubbish left too. It looks a real mess and we have asked for this to be rectified via Cllr. Allan.)*

Painting of Infants Play area fence

We have 2 full 5L tins and 1 part tin of cream paint, 1 full 5L tin and 1 part tin of red and the same for blue. So we will be able to start next year but will need more. We will ask Greenspace to jet-wash the fence next spring in preparation for painting.

We hope to get students or a youth group involved in this again too.

Boules Court

Sourcing of materials to top-up the Boules Court has been discussed with Greenspace and we will raise the matter again in the new FY, when funding may be available.

Information board near to Lock 10

The meeting with Marple College to discuss the possibility of their help to create new artwork for some of the information boards has been postponed a couple of times and is now rescheduled for Wednesday afternoon. *(PMN: This was also postponed and a meeting was eventually held on Tuesday 20 March. The college will now discuss the project with art tutors and students and then feedback the outcome).*

3.8 Skatepark Development Project

Outstanding Skatepark Project tasks

Screening trees and shrubs

12 large trees have now been planted and hundreds of native whips. Positions of the large trees were agreed with local residents most affected by the view of the skatepark and they seemed very happy with the improvement.

The planting should eventually grow into a dense copse and provide screening and, to some degree, act as a sound barrier too when it matures.

We also planted around 75Kg of daffodil bulbs in front of the above. These are too late for this season but should provide great spring colour next year.

Switching off lights

Modifications to the lighting has now been completed and they should now be switching off at 9.30pm each evening.

Getting council officers and their contractors to implement this very simple change has once again been like pulling teeth and the group thanked Cllr. Allan for his persistent support in helping to deal with the amazing inertia of our local council.

Possible relocation of CCTV camera

Taking of council inertia, Cllr. Ingham has been pushing for officers to look into the feasibility of moving the CCTV camera and for the working group to be reformed to discuss this in more detail since we raised the issue of ASB before Christmas.

Cllr. Ingham has recently forwarded an email from officers responding to this that says they will look into the logistics of moving the camera as requested and discuss it with Greenspace and CCTV engineers.

The email mentions a column to support the camera so it looks like they have not understood our request. Mark has clarified to the Greenspace Team on site today that

we are just seeking to move the camera to a different corner of the building it is on and they have agreed to clarify this to Johanna Smith and her team.

Due to the time it is taking to get this matter addressed we are concerned that it will not be concluded before the beginning of May, when Cllr. Ingham's term of office ends. Mark has raised this with Cllr. Ingham, who has said that Cllr. Allan is "au fait" with what's happening and will get involved before she steps down.

3.9 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

All is quiet until the 100th anniversary of the start of the "Spring Offensive" on 21 March. A further 10 men will have to be added by the end of the month.

Permanent display

An application for funding was submitted to Marple Area Committee and presented to them on Wednesday 7th March. A sum of £1,000 was approved by the committee and this will enable us to achieve the aim of making the display more permanent.

The next step is to finalise a package of information for the first half of the panels to get HB Printing underway with the work.

The intention is to have the first half installed as soon as possible. The target for the second half to be installed is 1st November, in time for this year's Remembrance period. This will include the last eight men whose anniversaries are later, so that all 141 will be on display by Remembrance time 2018.

3.10 Task Days

Last Task Days – 24 February 2018

Three large sacks of bulbs were planted, we started maintenance on flowerbeds and removed the redundant chains from the relocated benches.

Ad-hoc Task Days

Nothing scheduled.

Next Task Days – 31 March 2018

Parking is approved. Emails will be sent out when due.

We should have soil for the new bed and topping up the jubilee bed. We can also hopefully make a start on the paving slabs in front of benches.

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments

Risk Assessments were reviewed and updated in December and a Task Day Application covering 1 January to 30 June 2018 is approved.

Saturday Task Days in 2018: 31 March, 14, 28 April, 12, 26 May, 16, 30 June, 14, 28 July, 11, 25 August, 15, 29 September, 13, 27 October, 10, 24 November & 29 December.

Training

We await news of any further dates for training.

Dates are also still awaited for Mick and Bob to do the power-tools training.

Power Tools

Nothing new.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Last statement on 22 February shows a balance of £3,977.66.

2017 accounts have been prepared and passed to the McInnes Partnership for audit.

Income since last meeting:

£66.04 Local Giving.

£75.00 March Bands donations up to end of March.

Expenditure since last meeting:

None

Currently committed funds are: WWI Display £46 and Plants £72, leaving a current working balance of £3,859.40.

Cash still to pay into the bank as follows is not included in the above figures:

Approx £17 collected during the last task day, £10 donated by Selma Fielding and approx £55 collected in the Co-Op donation box. (Approx total £82).

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Name plates for driveway into the park

We are still waiting to learn when the name plates will be installed.

(PMN: Installation was completed 26 March 2018.)

5.2 Open Gardens in Marple (7th and 8th July 2018)

A meeting with gardeners last Thursday went well and the event is taking shape nicely. Details appeared in Inside Marple recently and are also due to be published in the spring issue of the Marple Review.

5.3 Augmented Reality Pilot Scheme

We've been asked if we will support this pilot scheme to use mobile phone technology to get people more involved in parks. A bit like Pokemon Go! And the Gruffalo Trail. We have agreed to help with publicity but have asked that posters are given to us for the noticeboard and not cello-taped to them due to the horrible residue this leaves.

5.4 Park Toilets

The park toilets have been closed recently due to vandalism and frost damage. Repairs are underway. Mark has asked Greenspace to look into the cost of fully refurbishing and modernising the toilets, including looking at the feasibility of making them unisex and / or disabled access too. Understanding the options and costs will allow us to investigate funding opportunities to take this matter further.

5.5 Ian Walmsley to attend 9th April meeting

Greenspace manager Ian Walmsley has agreed to attend our next meeting to discuss opportunities for Greenspace to support our activities. The agenda will be adjusted to facilitate this and published in advance of the meeting as usual.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 9 April 2018 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2018 (library booked):

9 April, 14 May, 11 June 2018.