

Friends of Marple Memorial Park

Minutes of Meeting

Navigation, Tuesday 18th March 2025



Present:, Joyce Reed, Mick & Larry Thompson, Barbara Ormrod, Malcolm Allan

1 **Apologies:** Phil and Helen Wiles, Patrick O’Herlihy

2 **Minutes of last Meeting:** Agreed

3 **Matters Arising:**

Rose the Frog

No further progress as we are awaiting responses from Europlanters of Bredbury and from Men In Sheds. We are not too concerned about a delay as currently, if fitted in place, the structure might be vulnerable.

PD

MA

Treasurer/Secretary vacancy

Still no volunteers so we will address this at the AGM. Malcolm stressed that both roles are relatively easy and shouldn’t take too much time, and he will support both actively.

Tool box and lockup tools

Patrick will progress this over the next few weeks.

An audit of all our tools will be done during a task day when the weather is better, probably in April.

PD

MA

Boule Court project

Awaiting further outcome of actions.

PD

Chairs Report:

Community Hub

Malcolm has met with both contractors reps and separately SMBC project manager and had confirmed that it is still the intention to lay down some mats to protect the grass in busy areas and that the pavement will be opened up once the Police are in Hollins House. The estimate for both actions is the end of March. Tree planting has been completed and much of it has been very well done. It includes a harrowed area for the wild flower meadow. There are a small number of large trees with big root balls awaiting planting in the compound. This is as promised. There are many more whips than we had expected at about 400, with some concerns this will end up very dense. However, whips have a high failure rate and in due course the poorer trees could be thinned if necessary. There was some concern about the margin left for future events such as the carnival, and for the area where there is no fencing – some whips have already been knocked out. There was also surprise at Yew planting given its poisonous berries. The woodland path advocated by the Civic Society is planed inside the fenced off area, funded by the contractors Willmott Dixon.

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SMBC/TLC maintenance

We have been advised by SMBC that a new chargehand on the local team is keen to tidy up and maintain the five clumps of bushes and trees around the park. This is good news for us. We have also been advised that in future the bowling green hedge will be cut in a safer way using an angled strimmer with operative's feet on the ground. The hedge will remain slightly above the level of defence.

Exercise bike

We have been told that the bike will be returned ready for use at the end of this month.

AGM

The committee decided that the best place to hold this will be in the upstairs room of the Navigation not least because there are very few alternatives, if any. We are all keen that some new people join the committee as we like having a range of opinions and ideas. It's a minimal commitment as we have friendly and concise meetings lasting about an hour once a month.

5 Finance:

Malcolm advised that the FoMMP account is at £11,291 and no invoices to pay.

A decision is needed on whether to continue with Just Giving membership. Malcolm has had very useful input from Mark Whittaker. Membership is either £180 or £150 per annum. Currently we have four donors who contribute £360 annually but through Just Giving we get a further £90 in Gift Aid. The option would be to continue with this at +£270 or to end the arrangement and hope the donors continue which leaves us with +£360. However, membership allows us to promote donations via a QR code and other means on line and attract further gift aid. Also we have not actively promoted the monthly contribution option. It was decided to continue with Just Giving and aim to promote this option more and use the facility better. We can then see how we stand next year.

MA

Malcolm was asked to check that the band are still giving us £10 a month for maintenance of their garden area.

MA

Public liability insurance was discussed as it will be due for renewal sometime soon. Given we are covered by council insurance for all our activities on the park, it was decided that we now have a few if any events outside the park and we could save money by not taking out this insurance. Malcolm will look at the renewal cost and make a judgement on this basis

MA

NB: we still have an award from Stockport MBC for £300 to use on one of our items of expenditure via the council.

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6 Any other business

We have been advised that chippings will be suitable for some of our paths , They're currently used elsewhere. We would be keen to do this once the Hub is established, along the farther part of the woodland path.

The information boards, particularly one down by the canal are in need of renewing and we are hoping this might be possible as part of the overall hub project.

Larry distributed packets of cosmos seeds for people to grow at home and then plant in the park when they've reached a suitable size.

The Bowling Club have asked if we can clear the majority of the cage so that they can fit in around 10 chairs when there is rainy weather. Malcolm will do some of this this week and the rest can be done during the forthcoming test day.

Jobs for the next test day include inspecting the tree ties which may now be too tight, splitting snowdrops, cutting back brambles across the woodland path, doing the band room garden, clearing the cage, clearing the wildflower area of dock leaves and looking to erect some sort of barrier on one of the flower beds which is persistently trampled over by dogs and others. The next task day will also be the one where Larry and Joyce will do our annual "Little Growers" event.

7 Date of next meeting/task days.

Next Task Day: **Saturday 29th March**: Mick and Larry to lead and do refreshments.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday 15th April 6.00pm** - Navigation upper room.

Advance notification: AGM on Tuesday 29th April at 6.00 PM