

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 12 November 2018  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Joyce Reed, Mick Thompson, Lorraine Thompson, Micaela Wood, Patrick O'Herlihy, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Marple North Councillors.

**2.0 Minutes of last meeting:** Agreed.

### **3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA**

Planning permission was granted on Wednesday 17 October. This has been announced and the latest 3D images published online. Everything else is waiting for the return of Richard Booker from extended leave. He is due back on Monday 19 November.

Funding is in place for the scheme, although we do not know for sure that we have enough until final prices are obtained for both the skatepark works and the MUGA. It is possible some additional fund-raising and / or grant applications will be required.

Main outstanding items are:

- Obtain single tender action approval from the council's procurement team and place an order for the skatepark element of the phase II project.
- Obtain tender prices for the MUGA element / select contractor etc.
- Confirm total costs and determine how to make up any funding gaps.

### **3.2 Bowling Green**

**New door on tool store:** The door has been painted and looks great. We have chased up the return of the keys from the contractor a couple of times with no response but a reply came today that Jo Smith has contacted the contractor.

**Cracks in Bowling Hut gable end:** We have chased up this work that should have been done a couple of times too and Jo Smith has advised today that it will be done.

### **3.3 Play Areas and Play Equipment**

A completion report has been submitted to Forever Manchester covering the £1,000 Auto Trader Community Fund contribution towards the Ocean See-Saw. The report has been acknowledged by FM and signed off as complete on 25 October.

### **3.4 Planting for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Votes for Women**

The artwork will be removed at the end of the year.

### **3.5 Park Benches**

**Park benches general:** All finished for this year.

**Town Centre benches:** All 14 town centre benches have retreated ready for winter.

Funeral Directors Malcolm Shaw has provisionally committed to sponsoring one of the last 3 benches on The Hollins. Bridgford did express an interest too but has decided not to go ahead at this time as all their community funding has been spent.

Mark met with Public Realm Officer Karen Barnes to discuss weeds under benches, all around the town centre and at the park entrance. It was agreed the park entrance would be cleared of weeds by the Community Payback Team before Remembrance weekend and those in the town centre before the Pop-up Christmas Market.

**Hard-standings for benches:** All six benches are now completed.

**Visit to Queen's Park Rochdale:** A group of our volunteers visited Queen's Park on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October. This was enjoyed by all, despite very wet weather, and we were all impressed with the park. The group thanked Bob for suggesting it.

We particularly liked the wooden play fort and one of the ideas the visit has inspired is the possibility of merging our two existing play areas into a single (fenced) one, making room for additional play features by using the open space between them.

**Policy for replacement of existing commemorative benches:**

We now await contact from the original donors of these 3 benches for up to 12 months (October 2019) before considering options to secure the future of these benches.

### **3.6 Park Buildings and Infrastructure**

**Replacement of Midnight:** No change. We are waiting for Myers Tree Care to come up with a suitable piece of timber for a replacement during the course of their works.

**Info board near to Lock 10:** HB Printing has quoted £56+VAT for vinyl printed on Dibond (the same as the timeline) or on plastic (Foamex) for £40+VAT. The next step is to create some new artwork. Patrick will look at refurbishing the lectern frame.

**Painting of Pavilion Building:** Painting under the canopy is deferred until next year.

**Breathing Places reading circle:** We are still waiting for Greenspace to obtain a price for a contractor to resurface the reading circle.

**Painting of Infants Play area fence:** We will progress this task again in 2019.

**Possible refurbishment of Park Toilets:** We are still awaiting designs and options from the council. A response was received from the engineer Jo Smith today stating that she doesn't have a charging code. This is very frustrating as we have been waiting for this to happen since April. Mark will raise with Ian Walmsley and Cllr. Allan.

**Chains and posts:** Patrick has been painting the chains and posts at the park entrances. £37.90 has been spend on materials, which needs to be reimbursed.

### **3.7 Skatepark Development Project**

**Relocation of CCTV:** The Tree Officer advises that funding to crown-lift the trees has been secured via Richard Booker and will be done asap. We have asked if the operatives can chop-up the remains of Midnight for us to take away at the same time.

**Crack on large tree limb:** The crack we reported has been inspected by Peter Pollard for the council. They advise that it is purely a crack in the bark, not the timber itself.

### **3.8 World War I Centenary Commemorations**

**Timeline Commemoration / permanent display:** The last permanent display panel was installed on 1<sup>st</sup> November, meaning that all 141 men were displayed in time for Remembrance. A smaller panel has also been installed giving background information and acknowledgements. This has kindly been provided by HB Printing free of charge.

HB has been asked to invoice for the balance of funds due, which is £164.40.

It was agreed that the project has been a big success and we've had a great response from people in the park and also on social media. Mick offered the group's thanks to Mark for setting up the timeline project and for seeing it through to a conclusion.

**Street Poppies:** The 20 Street Poppies for the park were put up over the weekend of 20/21 October and will be taken down at the end of this week.

**Tarmac to paths:** The work was completed on time. We have raised the issue of several gullies being filled with tarmac and one gully that is broken with Greenspace.

We have written to thank Marple Area Committee for their support and funding.

**Repairs to War Memorial:** The worst of the pointing around stones and slabs has been done but there is quite a lot more loose pointing that has been revealed by cleaning that needs further attention. This has been raised with Jacky Budd of Greenspace and she says that this will be revisited after Remembrance.

We have also raised the issue of the pointing that has been done on the granite columns of the memorial itself. This has never been done before and we feel it wasn't necessary. Greenspace say that it was done to prevent water ingress and damage by freezing but there has not been a problem during the last 96 years. There seems little that can be done about this now as attempts to remove it is likely to cause damage.

Painting of the railings has been done and looks much better.

**Knitted Poppies:** These were installed to the railings on Saturday 10 November and also several on Danny Winter's bench. They will be removed in a week or two.

**Wreath:** Cost was £25. Terry laid it on behalf of the group during yesterday's service.

**Flags:** Additional flags have been purchased at a cost of £30.45 for seven.

The Payback Team cleared weeds at the entrance to the park and TLC attendants put in a lot of effort with us to get the park looking its best for the Remembrance Service yesterday. Mark has written to thank everyone involved for their support.

### **3.9 Task Days**

**Last Task Days – 13, 27 October, 3 & 10 November 2018:** A huge amount of work was done in the park and it looked superb for Remembrance Sunday.

**Ad-hoc Task Days:** Included in above.

**Next Task Days – 24 November & 29 December 2018:**

Parking has been requested, emails will be sent out when due.

Someone from Forever Manchester will be visiting us during the task day on 24 November to find out more about what we do for the park.

**Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments:**

Covered until 31 December 2018, RA's need updating and application for 2019.

**Saturday Task Days in 2018:** 24 November & 29 December.

**Saturday Task Days in 2019:** 26 January, others TBA.

**Training / Power Tools:** No change.

### **4.0 Funding - Status of Funds**

The last statement dated 22 October showed a balance of £4,401.45.

**Income since last meeting:**

£222.87 Local Giving (includes £100 anon and £50 S. Richards donations).  
£15.00 Marple Bands standing order.

**Expenditure since last meeting:**

£37.90 Hammerite paint and wipes (Patrick).  
£8.25 Cable ties.  
£3.90 Brackets.  
£15.75 New keys.  
£30.75 7 new flags.  
£3.38 Bedding plants.  
£25.00 Poppy Wreath.

Commitments are £1164.40 for last timeline panel, leaving a working balance of

£4,288. There is also approx £200 of cash to be bagged and paid into the bank.

**New bank account:** The new account at Barclays is all set-up. It has a zero balance at present but the cash collected in the park will be paid into it in the near future.

## **5.0 Any Other Business**

### **5.1 Lock 11 Repairs**

Works are underway now. Lots of people are asking what is going on and we've done our best to tell them online. Target completion is by Easter 2019.

### **5.2 St Martin's Christmas Tree Festival**

We are all ready to set up on Thursday 19 November.

### **5.3 Dog fouling in the park**

The group is becoming increasingly concerned about dog-fouling in the park. We regularly have to remove dog-mess from around the flowerbeds before we can work on them and often find that people allow their dogs to wander through the flowerbeds urinating over the plants that we are working on. It was agreed that we should talk to Greenspace about this to see if there is a way that we can improve the situation. Maybe a dog walkers' charter, asking them to keep dogs on leads and off the beds.

### **5.4 York stone stolen from park entrance**

The council has complied with our request to remove the remaining York stone from the park entrance after sections of it were stolen for the second time. They have now tarmacked the whole area and it looks much better and will prevent further thefts.

### **5.5 Kerbs /setts around the Bowling Green fence**

These have been replaced / re-fixed.

### **5.6 WWI Stainless steel signs**

Patrick has received some advice from a metallurgist about cleaning the tree sap from the stainless steel panels. He has recommended White Spirit and elbow grease, which we will try on a small section first to see how will it goes.

### **5.7 20 years of the Marple Website**

Mick offered the group's congratulations to Mark on reaching the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of setting up the Marple Website in October this year.

## **6.0 Next Meeting**

Monday 14 January 2018 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

### **Future meeting dates scheduled for 2018/19 (library booked):**

14 January 2019, 11 February, 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June 2019.