

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 13th October 2008
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Dave Burrows, Peter Bardsley, Patrick O'Herlihy, Gavin Eyquem, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Sandra Ellis.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Next meeting date was incorrect.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 BBC Breathing Places Reading Area

Breathing Places Launch

The launch event on 13th September organised by Marple Library was a great success. The weather was good and the stories and quest to find silver leaves and solve riddles was enjoyed by young and old alike.

Interpretation

Mark tabled a proposed design for the interpretation. It has been reviewed by the BLF Project Officer and incorporates the comments of their branding department. The group approved the design, although Dave was concerned about permission to include the photograph of the Beaver Scouts. Mark will discuss this with Lisa Bintliff, the Scout Leader.

Rebecca has revalidated the price of £915 from Armourseal and has been quoted a 3-week delivery. If the Beavers photo is ok to use it was agreed that Mark will ask her to place an order on behalf of the group.

(Post meeting note: the design has been discussed with Lisa, who is happy with it and has confirmed that all Beaver parents have signed releases for photos to be used for publicity purposes. An order has been placed with Armourseal for the board in a similar style to the existing ones about the park history and the canals.)

BBC "Do One Thing" Event (Planting of Wildflowers)

Everything appears to be in place for the event, which will take place between 10am and 1pm on Saturday 25th October.

The Beavers will be joining in for an hour between 10am – 11am and will then go into the library as they did during the hedgerow planting.

This should mean a good turnout and Mark stressed the need to be well organised with good support from the Council. Bob cannot attend himself for personal reasons, so he will make sure that the plants are delivered during the week before and that Adrian understands where they are to be planted.

Outstanding Expenditure

Remaining expenditure on the project is £580 for the wildflowers and £1,000 for the interpretation.

Project Completion

A project completion report has to be submitted to the BLF Project Officer by 15 December 2008. Installation of the interpretation board will be the last item to complete and it is hoped that this can be done during the November Task Day, which would give a couple of weeks for the report to be prepared and sent off.

3.2 Basketball Court Fence

The Area Committee will meet to decide the use of the commuted sums on 20 October and the Basketball Fence has been put forward for this.

The cost of the fence is £5,963.45 and there is £5,530.40 in the commuted sums that could be used subject to approval. This would leave a balance of £433, which the Friends Group now has available.

3.3 Beech Tree Sculpture

The ground sculptures were oiled again during the last task day.

Dave has spoken with Henry Campbell-Ricketts about the fungus on the main tree sculpture and he advises that there is no point in putting anti-fungicide on it as it is coming from within the tree. We need to be patient and it should eventually stop when the stump and roots die off completely. There is no harm in removing it and re-oiling as we have been doing but this in itself will not stop it coming back.

3.4 Infants Play Area

Replacement Graphics

The old graphics have now been removed and Rebecca has placed an order with Massey & Harris for the new graphics to be applied.

Playground Sign and sculptures

Attempts to obtain a firm commitment from Andrew Frost on delivery of the new playground sign and replacement apple sculpture has been unsuccessful so far, with several promises unfulfilled. Mark will maintain a dialogue with Andrew in the hope that this can eventually be achieved.

3.5 Boules Court.

Compaction

Dave has arranged for the court to be compacted by 'Golf Construct', who will be doing some work to the bowling green, hopefully within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Commemorative Seating

The situation remains as reported previously, with Marple Civic Society having confirmed that they would like to donate £750 to cover the cost of a commemorative seat and two offers from private individuals to purchase memorial seats. Another private individual has provisionally offered to donate £250 towards the project.

Patrick advised that his dialogue with Marple Business Forum was still ongoing and they will be reconsidering whether they wish to make a contribution at their next meeting in early November.

Patrick also advised that the Senior Citizens have responded positively to his request and they would like to fund a seat. However, their financial circumstances mean that they would not be able to do this until next year. Also, they would prefer to fund a seat in a location where people can watch the crown green bowls from the shade. The Friends Group would support this proposal, subject to agreeing a suitable location. This will be treated as a separate project to the Boules Court seating and undertaken at a time to suit the Senior Citizens Group.

Patrick agreed to discuss funding with the Rotary Club too. Mark highlighted that contributing towards an interpretation board was an alternative option to funding a seat.

Mark has reviewed the seats available from the alternative list of suppliers provided by Rebecca. These include a number of traditional designs similar to the Jim Heald bench. The catalogue of a company called Broxap was passed round showing these and the group agreed that this traditional design might be more suitable. Dave confirmed that he would also be happy with this design so Mark will seek firm prices from Broxap for further consideration.

Interpretation

The group wishes to install an interpretation board of similar design to the existing ones that would explain the history of Pétanque, the rules of the game and how the court was funded. It would also advise about the Boules sets available from Bob. This may be a suitable use for the private donation of £250 (subject to their agreement) but approximately £750 more will be needed before this can proceed.

3.6 War Memorial

Listing of Memorial & Shelter

The paperwork from Peter Clarke (as the local War Memorials Trust representative) explaining how to apply for spot listing of a memorial has been received. Mark advised that the work needed to do this is quite extensive if a good case is to be made for listing of the two structures. It would therefore be some time before this is likely to be completed.

Polishing of Memorial

Dave is still waiting for the prices for polishing the memorial to make removal of algae growth easier in the future. Dave has also encountered a firm at a recent Trade Day who provide a spray-on "micro algaecide" and he has requested more details and costs for this system.

There are still no details from Jacky Budd regarding the proposed War Memorial flowerbed scheme. The group are very disappointed at this and Bob will chase up again.

Micaela confirmed that Terry would lay the wreath on behalf of the group at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November. Mark will ensure that a wreath is available. *(Post meeting note: John Haddock had already order one for us and this has been paid for with £20 donated by a winner of the football competition Mark organises at work.)*

Patrick explained that the Business Forum would like to sponsor the provision of extra hymn sheets for the Remembrance Service. It was agreed that Jon Bintliff was probably the best person to contact regarding this.

3.7 Park Leaflet

Dave has not managed to ascertain the new requirements for the park leaflet yet and asked Bob to speak to Jacky Budd about this.

3.8 Coronation Bench

Wayne Chaisty completed the repairs to the Coronation Bench on Friday 19 September. An invoice for the cost of £45 is awaited.

Mark advised that the new leaves and welds on the bench were painted during the repair but overall it is starting to look a bit tatty and will need to be completely repainted in the near future. It was agreed that this should be done after the worst of the winter is over.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Day – 27 September

The tree sculptures were re-oiled and flowerbeds weeded and tidied up again.

Unfortunately Terry received a parking ticket during the task day, despite the normal request for free parking being submitted. The fine has since been waived and an apology received.

Next Task Day – 25 October

The wildflower planting in the Breathing Place and nature areas will be the main task, as discussed earlier.

The free parking request has been submitted and confirmation received.

3.10 Bird Survey

Patrick advised that Ian has begun the survey but he is currently out of the country and his first report is not yet complete. Patrick will pass it on once Ian has returned and it is available.

Dave would like to include details about this in his new Green Flag Award Management Plan that he will be starting soon.

3.11 Park Cottage/ Band Room Proposals

Sue Emery has advised that the Council's Estates Management are insisting on following procedure and the cottage will be advertised in the near future. A sign should go up and it will appear in the local papers.

The Friends Group are hopeful that the Band Room proposal will be the only one to satisfy the covenants on the property and that the Council will accept this and allow it to proceed.

The Conservation Officer has reviewed the Band Room plans and is also supportive of the Bands' proposals.

4.0 Fundraising Activities

Food Festival

The Food Festival was a great success and £354 was raised on the Tombola. In addition, £20 was received for the Railway Children book that was re-donated by the winner of the raffle at the Railway Children film showing. Another £20 was received for sales of Gordon Mills videos.

Micaela advised that she has given the other re-donated raffle prize, a framed Railway Children picture, to Mr. Lillis at the Regent Cinema as a token of the group's appreciation of his support.

Christmas Cracker – 6 December

(Post meeting note: The organisers have advised that we will have two stalls back to back near to White's Butchers. Mark to confirm the stall type to establish if we need to provide tables etc.)

Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights

Dates are 17 December 2008 and 7 January 2009.

4.0 Status of Funds

Income since last month includes a £20 Football Competition donation, *(which has been used to purchase a poppy wreath for the Remembrance Service)* and £394 from the Food Festival as described above. A cheque for £50 from Marple Carnival Committee has also been received but has not yet been banked and is not included in the figures over page.

There has been no expenditure in the period since the last meeting.

Current bank balance:	£5,941	
Committed Funds:	£4,910	
Breathing Places		£1,503
Boules Court		£2,869
Sundial & Shuttle panels		£53
Working balance:	£1,037	

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob advised that his main activity in the park has been sorting out the beds ready for replanting.

Bob also reported that there had been a break-in to the Bowling Green building. The lock was cropped off and there was a lot of damage done inside including graffiti and letting off fire extinguishers. The police are investigating and it is proposed to improve the security of the building.

Repainting of the doors and woodwork to the Bowling Green building and Bob's building was discussed further. There was general agreement to Micaela's suggestion that a darker shade of green would be better than the existing colour. Dave asked Bob to speak to Tony Donovan about when the buildings are due for repainting and to ask him for samples of suitable colours to choose from.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Bandstand

Dave has received a request for a Bandstand in the park. This was discussed and it was agreed that it was an idea that the group would support in principle, although at around £40k to £50k it would require significant fund-raising and was not seen as a high priority for the group's efforts and resources at the current time. The link to the park cottage and the bands' desire to use it as a band room was recognised and it was felt more appropriate to wait and see if that is successful. If the bands should become resident in the park cottage then the addition of a bandstand in a suitable location would hopefully be a project that we could work together with the bands to achieve.

6.2 Lock 17 Plaque

Mark advised that Gordon Mills' bronze plaque is now complete and he has met with Peter Clarke and Malcolm Allcard of Marple Lock Heritage Society to discuss its installation. A large piece of stone has been chosen to mount it on. This is currently at the BW depot near to the Aqueduct and transportation of it to the new site is going to be a challenge. Peter is working with BW to arrange this. Once the stone is in place Malcolm will fit the plaque and then a ceremony can be arranged.

Photos of the plaque, the stone and the location it will be set in next to the Locks display were passed around.

6.3 Christmas Dinner

It was proposed to hold the Christmas Dinner at the Sportsman this year. Micaela has made provisional enquiries about the menu and there are 2 course and 3 course options for £13.95 and £16.95 respectively.

Saturday 13 December was agreed as a suitable date and Micaela will firm up the arrangements, obtain copies of the menu and take deposits.

6.4 Missing kerb at park entrance

Mark raised the issue of the missing kerb near to the entrance of the park, where the tree was removed. The tarmac has sunken and it has become a tripping hazard. Gill witnessed an old lady have quite a serious fall on this recently and it is important that the council resolve it quickly. Dave advised that the section concerned is the responsibility of the Highways Department and he understands that they are aware of the problem and will be doing something about it soon.

7.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 10th November 2008 at 6pm in Marple Library.

List of reminders:

Outdoor Fitness Equipment (sources of funding).

Letter to Wyevale.

Spring job – repaint Coronation Bench.