

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park AGM
Monday 13th September 2010
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Patrick O’Herlihy, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Peter Bardsley.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Roundabout in Infants Play Area

Despite repeated promises, the most recent saying that the roundabout would be replaced before the summer holidays, it still hasn’t happened. After further enquiries to Jonathan Long the following statement has been received from the council: *"Gareth has obtained quotes for replacement of a number of roundabouts in the borough. He is currently trying to source funds to pay for these works. However, if none is available unfortunately this work will not proceed as the roundabout presents no health and safety risk."*

The cost of replacement is reported to be around £6,000.

The group are extremely disappointed by this as there has been a problem with the roundabout ever since it was installed and they reported it within a couple of months of the project being completed. It is the opinion of the group that the roundabout was never fit for purpose and the contractor should have been made to replace it or make it work properly. Playground Maintenance chose not to pursue this to a satisfactory conclusion or take up the group’s offer of support to put pressure on the contractor. Instead they chose to instigate replacement by an alternative contractor, which now looks likely to be unaffordable.

Mark to consider writing to local councillors to express the group’s disappointment over this matter.

3.2 Improvements to the Park Entrance

Carver Commemoration – Adrian did manage to obtain an electronic version of the map artwork used in the park leaflet but it was not good enough quality to use for the full size panel. Mark has since obtained a quote from Shelley Signs to create new artwork for the panel at £415 + VAT. When added to the quotation of £1712 + VAT for supply of the display panel it comes to a total of £2127 + VAT + delivery.

Shelley Signs’ area representative has visited the park to inspect the damage to the French Boules panel that they supplied less than 12

months ago and he has advised verbally that they will replace it free of charge as a gesture of goodwill. Mark is waiting for this to happen before placing the order for the new display. In the meantime he will begin to develop the rough artwork.

Marple District Centre Partnership has pledged the sum of £1,000 towards the display and the cheque is expected to arrive soon.

Mark will investigate additional sources of funding for the display.

Drainage Improvements – Three options have been identified to deal with the drainage problems at the entrance to the park:

New gulley with mains connection:	£5,422.50 + VAT
New gulley with soakaway:	£1,839.50 + VAT
Adjust existing gulley:	£566.00 + VAT

Funding for this needs to be considered.

Existing Notice Board - A new location for the existing notice board that will be replaced also needs to be considered.

3.3 Treatment of Benches and Sculptures

The Breathing Place sculpture was sanded and treated during the June task day. The French Boules Court benches have also been done.

Next targets for treatment include the stocks and Jim Heald's bench. Patrick will arrive early at the next task day and start on the stocks.

Patrick also noted that the War Memorial "ironmongery" was in need of touch-up and it was agreed to get this done before Remembrance Day.

3.4 Tools

The invoice for £384.60 from the council for tools has been received and paid. The hosepipe and accessories purchased from B&Q cost £52.42 and this has been reimbursed. This takes total spending on tools to £437, giving a surplus of £33 against the Green Space Development Grant of £477. It has been confirmed with Iain Bate that the surplus can be put towards other projects in the park and the development grant has now been closed out.

3.5 Task Days

Previous Task Days

26 June 2010

Breathing Places sculptures sanded and treated plus weeding and mulching of shrub beds with the help of Marple Hall School.

31 July 2010

Reinstalled the Pear sculpture, deadheading and pruning.

28 August 2010

Weeding of ornamental beds, hampered by poor weather. French Boules Tournament in afternoon was a success despite the weather and was won by Marple Civic Society in a closely fought battle with Marple Business Forum.

Next Task Days

18 September 2010

Task day brought forward to avoid clash with Food and Drink Day on 25 September. Planned to begin painting of Bowling Green buildings if weather permits. Bowling Club have been advised of plans.

Free parking for specified vehicles has been confirmed.

30 October 2010

Marple & District Rotary Club have asked the group if they will plant 1,000 purple crocus bulbs in the park to promote their campaign to vaccinate children in India against Polio. This is a nationwide campaign and the planting will be commemorated with a Rotary plaque fitted in the spring when the bulbs come out.

It has been arranged with Lisa Bintliff for the Beaver Scouts to join in with the planting, which the Rotary Club thinks is a great idea.

The location for planting the bulbs was discussed and it was agreed that they should go near to the Apple and Pear sculptures at the corner of the library. An exact location is to be agreed before the task day.

3.6 Park Cottage

No new information received. According to the council web site a decision about the planning permission for the residential dwellings near the cinema has not yet been made.

4.0 Funding

4.1 Status of Funds

Current bank balance: £2,627

Committed Funds: £0

Working balance: £2,627

Income since the last meeting includes £313 from the tombola at Marple Carnival and £71 from Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights.

Expenditure includes £52 on hosepipe and accessories, £385 on tools and £22 on materials for treating the Boules Court benches.

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Nothing to report apart from general maintenance activities.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 "Gig" in the Park

A musical "Gig" was held in the park on Saturday 11 September as part of the Marple Festival. It was organised by Pure fm Radio and the Marple Festival Committee. Members of the group went along and helped to sell Festival raffle tickets. Attendance suffered due to a change in the advertised timing and unhelpful weather but the event was generally well received with just a few complaints about the noise.

6.2 Replacement Bins

Adrian confirmed that 3 replacement bins are available and his team would install these over the winter period.

6.3 Merchant Navy Day

There was no service in the park this year but the Red Duster Flag was flown on the flagpole near to the War Memorial between 1st and 18th September in honour of the Merchant Navy Seamen who lost their lives during the war.

6.4 St. Martin's Heritage Open Days

The group's display panels were set up in St. Martin's Parish Centre during the Heritage Open Days over the weekend of 11-12 September.

6.5 Christmas Dinner

It was agreed that we should return to the Hare & Hounds at Mill Brow for this year's Christmas dinner but it was also agreed to find out if this could be held on the 8th January 2011 to give everyone something to look forward to after the normal festivities. Micaela will investigate.

6.6 Carnival Distribution Evening

The group have been invited to the Carnival Committee's distribution evening on Friday 22 October at the Cricket Club. A team of four is required and Micaela, Terry, Gill and Mark will attend.

6.7 Group Contact Details

Iain Bate has requested alternative contact details for the group to put on the council database. Mark's details are already stored and Micaela agreed that hers could be added too.

7.0 Date of next Meeting:

Monday 8th November 2010 at 6pm in Marple Library.