

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park (AGM)
Monday 12th September 2011
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Joyce Reed, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Patrick O'Herlihy, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Improvements to the Park Entrance

Drainage Improvements

After the last meeting Adrian advised that funding is being requested to make repairs to the entrance road as well as the drainage. News is awaited from Ian Warmesley.

3.2 Ornamental Flowerbeds

Funding Progress

Stockport Homes have confirmed the award of £1,000 towards the cost of plants for the flowerbeds and have issued a purchase order covering this. Payment into the group's account is awaited and is expected within the next week or so.

3.3 Park Benches

Preservatives and Sanding Materials

The group is still awaiting the supply of wood preserver and rolls of 60 and 80 grade sanding materials from the council for use when refurbishing benches. Mark will speak to Adrian about this as we have now been waiting since April.

Daytime Visits by David Lewis Centre Task Group

Due to changes and other issues at the David Lewis Centre Terry advised that he would have to put on hold plans to bring his team to the park to help with refurbishment of benches. Work will continue on task days and it was agreed to prioritise refurbishment of bench no. 16 near to the Junior Play Area first.

Replacement of bench near Junior Play Area (No. 17 on survey)

Jonathan placed an order with Broxap on our behalf on Friday 5 August and the proof for the plaque has been received and approved by the family.

Adrian has said that he would prefer the Area Team to remove the existing bench, which now needs to be arranged.

(Post meeting note: The bench is due to be delivered on 23 September.)

Refurbishment of second bench near Junior Play Area (No. 16 on survey)

A cheque for £250 has been received from the family and they have also supplied the plaque, which Mark passed to Terry. Terry has ordered the materials and they should be available before the next task day.

It was agreed that the first requirement was to remove the existing wood and refurbish the metal framework. Hopefully this can be done at the next task day.

Replacement of bench near to the Bowling Green (No. 2 on survey)

A gentleman visited the park during the last task day to discuss a bench to commemorate his father. He is interested in replacing the concrete framed bench near to the Bowling Green and will now talk to his family about this.

(Post meeting note: The family have now selected a bench and Mark has requested a quotation from Broxap and confirmed with Jonathan that we can follow the same procedure as for bench no. 17 above.)

3.4 Picnic Benches

A meeting took place between Mark, Adrian and Gareth of Playground Maintenance on 19 August to discuss any issues with the picnic bench made by Terry at the David Lewis Centre. It was agreed that the bench could be installed and because the Friends of the Park were donating it there would be no issues over paperwork.

It was also agreed that Playground Maintenance would provide ground fixings and rubber matting to go under the bench and the Area Team would create a levelled area of grass in the play area for it to be installed on by the group at a task day.

3.5 Treatment of Sculptures and Wooden Features

The Acorn ground sculpture was reinstalled during the last task day. It was necessary to purchase some threaded bar to anchor it in the concrete and Terry provided receipts for this that will be reimbursed.

3.6 Infants Play Area Fence

Patrick cleaned a section of the play area fence with his jet wash and this was quite successful. Work had to stop because the weather improved and children started to use the playground. There were also issues with getting the equipment to the furthest parts of the fence but these can be tackled with a longer hosepipe and extension lead.

It was agreed to continue cleaning the fence but to put repainting of it on the task list for next year, as we are unlikely to get suitable weather until the spring now.

Ordering of the paint by the council and colours can be agreed nearer the time.

There will be issues about getting access to paint certain sections of the fence due to shrubs and a strategy for dealing with this will have to be developed.

3.7 Bowling Green Boards

After the last meeting Adrian advised that the Torkington Park Bowling Green had been boarded with wood by the Area Team at a cost of £500. Some boards have been located in Bob's tool room but a clear out is needed to ascertain exactly how many are available. With no park staff in attendance there is no new information.

3.8 Task Days

Previous Task Day – 27 August 2011

More plants donated by Les and Jean White were added to the War Memorial beds, the Acorn was reinstalled, the Play Area fence was partially jet washed and brambles were cleared from the Breathing Places area behind the library.

Next Task Day – 24 September 2011

Starting work on refurbishment of the bench near to the play area is a priority and weeding of the ornamental beds will be needed again. Continuing the jet washing of the play area fence and painting of the Coronation bench are additional tasks that may be possible subject to number of volunteers and the weather.

Mark will send out the parking request for specified vehicles and the task day email.

Joyce gave her apologies in advance, as she will be involved in the Marple Festival Story Train from Rose Hill on this day.

3.9 Skate Park

Mark attended a meeting with the council's Richard Booker and Tim Boylan and Graham Clarke from Marple Civic Society on 26 August. It was agreed that the next step is to develop a brief for contractors to quote against and to develop suitable outline schemes. Lewis Abbott and Richard Booker will work on this with a target to have it ready for issue to contractors in approximately 1 month's time.

Mark has prepared a draft report based on the survey done by Marple Hall pupils plus the feedback from the questionnaire on the Friends' web site. This has been issued for comments from the various parties involved.

Mark has also had discussions with Parks Development Manager Kath Hughes about possible funding opportunities via Sport England. The council is investigating the possibility of leasing parts of their parks to community groups like ours to allow us to tap into funding that is only available to landowners or leaseholders. It remains to be seen if the conditions are suitable for a small volunteer organisation such as FOMMP.

3.10 Toilets in the Park

The next meeting with Cllr. Alexander and council officers is scheduled for Friday 16 September. Mark will add details to the minutes as a post-meeting note.

(Post meeting note: On 14 September the council confirmed that the Memorial Park toilets will be retained and will transfer to parks (Monday to Friday). They also advised that they are still considering the opening of the facility at weekends and cancelled the meeting scheduled for 16 September.

FOMMP, Marple Civic Society and Marple Carnival Committee decided to continue with the meeting on the 16th to discuss outstanding issues. The council were advised that they would still be welcome to attend but Cllr. Alexander declined this, so the meeting went ahead without any participation from the council. The attendees conveyed the conclusions of discussions to Cllr. Alexander and her Environmental Officers in writing after the meeting. A fuller report is available on the Friends of the Park web site.)

3.11 Park Cottage

The Bands have been progressing well with the cottage refurbishment but have now discovered problems with the drains and have launched a "Drains Appeal" to help raise additional funds needed to rectify the problems.

The Bands' web site has been revamped and now includes lots of details of progress and working party activities.

3.12 Marple Festival

Food and Drink Day

Micaela advised that collection of prizes from local shops and businesses was almost complete but asked for help folding raffle tickets. Mark, Gill and Joyce will help on this. Mark will also email volunteers to ask for support on the day.

The gazebo has been confirmed but there is a possible charge of £25 from SMBC for supplying it. Marple Festival Committee has waived their normal £25 charge.

Mark will organise public liability insurance, signs and bring the tables from the groups' shed in the park. Terry and Micaela will bring everything else.

(Post meeting note: The Tombola raised a record-breaking £564. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success and very well done to Micaela for all her hard work engaging the local shops and businesses to contribute prizes.)

3.13 French Boules Tournament

The event on Sunday 28 August went very well with 8 teams competing in a knockout tournament that was won for the second year running by Marple Civic Society.

The trophy was donated and presented by Kay Dee Hair and Beauty.

3.14 Wildflowers for Breathing Places Area

Mark passed Joyce a rather good wild-flower seed catalogue obtained from a supplier and it was agreed that she would look at setting things in motion for a new project to enhance the Breathing Places area behind the library and if possible to involve local schools in planting wild flowers. An initial budget of £50 was agreed that Joyce would spend on this at her discretion and to be reimbursed against receipts.

4.0 Funding

Status of Funds

Current bank balance is £3,898, with a further £1,000 expected from Stockport Homes not yet included in figures quoted.

With £1,537 committed for plants and shrubs, £660 for the new bench and £250 for refurbishment of another bench we have a working balance of £1,451.

Income since the last meeting is £250 from a family for refurbishment of a bench near the Junior Play Area, £10 from Mr. Senior's regular contributions and 49p interest!

Expenditure recorded in the period is £14.05 refunded to Patrick for White Spirit and sanding materials.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 National Gardening Week

Reminder: National Gardening Week starts on 13 March next year.

5.2 Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Micaela suggested commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year with a suitable flowerbed display and wondered if this was something that the college could help with. It was agreed that the bed near to the library was a possible location for this and Mark will contact the college to see if they are interested.

5.3 Dog Poo Bins

Friends of Brabyns Park have been in touch about the council's plans to remove dog poo bins from all their parks and they are planning to object quite strongly. Mark had mistakenly thought that the bins in Memorial Park had already been removed as the one at the main entrance was missing recently. This has since been reinstated (or perhaps the writer is going senile and it never was missing) but as nobody from the council was at the meeting this matter will have to be discussed at the next one.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 10 October at 6pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates in 2011:

14 November

12 December