

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Committee Meeting

Monday 23rd August 2004

Minutes

Present: Peter Clarke, Sally Curley, Dave Burrows, Bill Arden, Jay Havoleana, Michaela Wood, Cllr Andrew Bispham, PC John Francis, David Hoyle, Malcolm Allcard.

1. **Apologies:** Adrian Ellis, Chris Huxley, Cllr Chris Baker, Chris Armitt, Jane Christie, Mark Whittaker
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes were approved by Bill Arden and seconded by Michaela Wood.

3. **Matters Arising**

Tree Trunk Seat

Peter has been in touch with Dave Myers about some drainage holes in the wooden seat. We will have to wait until Dave can sort out the holes.

Green Flag

There will be no news as to whether the park has been given a Green Flag until September, possibly even November.

Graffiti

Peter had been in touch again with Andrea Nyland from the Youth Service about a graffiti project, and had invited her to this meeting. Unfortunately, she could not make it as she is on holiday. Peter will wait for her to get in touch again.

Cenotaph Flower Beds

Peter will get costs for a small bow-top fence around the Cenotaph flowerbeds and feed back to the group.

Picnic Tables

The group agreed to purchase a couple of picnic tables, to be located between the bowling green and toddler play area. PC Francis said that young people may gather there but this wasn't a big problem as there are no residential properties in that area. Dave Burrows had provided some costs - £40+VAT for a picnic table and £120+VAT for a disabled access picnic bench. It was agreed to purchase probably a couple of picnic benches to be installed by Parks and Recreation or possibly on a group task day.

David Hoyle suggested that the picnic tables could be sponsored. Peter said that he had received enquiries about memorial benches in the park and Cllr Bispham said that he had also had requests for more seating. Peter asked if the group would be happy to set up a collection for Jim for a memorial bench or picnic table. Everyone agreed.

Action: Peter will make enquiries into sponsorship and memorial seats and will speak to residents towards bottom end of the park about location of seats.

Greggs

Peter had received a reply from Greggs, which he read out to the group. Greggs are not prepared to pay for any litter bins in the park but would still like to support the group. Cllr Bispham thought that it was very short sighted of Greggs who could get publicity if they supplied some bins. The park needs more bins and Peter may write back to Greggs regarding sponsorship.

Living Spaces

Peter reported that himself, Jay, Michaela and Sally had all met with the Living Spaces Enabler, Peter Herberlet. They all felt that the meeting went well and that although the enabler had asked for some additional information, he was going to recommend to Living Spaces that the scheme goes ahead. Peter will wait to hear.

Gap in Hedge

Peter referred to Bill's query about the gap in the hedge that had let a car through. Jay said that it had been repaired.

Peter asked about the situation with the house where Jim used to live. Dave Burrows said that it was still under review and that surveyors were undertaking some work at present. Peter mentioned whether there had been any consideration into making it a tea-room/heritage centre. The group agreed that this was a much-needed facility in Marple. David Hoyle said that there are grants available to modernise community buildings.

Action: Dave Burrows to look into and bring back some information to next meeting.

4. Policing in the Park – PC John Francis

Peter introduced PC Francis to talk about policing issues in the park. PC Francis talked about current issues including anti-social behaviour relating to underage drinking. There was a discussion around local off-licences selling to underage young people. Cllr Bispham said that the council's enforcement officers were officially looking into the supply of alcohol to underage drinkers in Marple. PC Francis also reported the problem of vandalism and that to be able to arrest someone they had to be caught in the act.

David Hoyle mentioned about the cameras and felt that they weren't very effective. Bill asked about changing the angle of the cameras but PC Francis said that it was not possible with these cameras that had to be that type because of the magnification. David asked about a camera in the park and asked whether there could be a dummy one erected as a deterrent. The group agreed that they purchase a dummy camera.

Action: Malcolm Allcard to look into and report back to Peter.

David Hoyle mentioned about the Ranger who has been patrolling, but was unsure as to his exact duties. Peter said that he had invited him to the meeting but he couldn't make it.

Treasurers Report

Jay had produced a Treasurers report, copies of which were circulated around the group. The current balance stands at £595.23.

5. Any other Business

Michaela raised the issue of types of play equipment, if and when the group gets the grant from Living Spaces, and had brought some photos of equipment at Lyme Park. Sally informed the group that we will do consultation with park users about the different types of equipment and we can look at the examples at Lyme Park.

Peter said that he had received correspondence from Liz Siddall, Chair of the Friends of High Lane Parks. They are organising a mini-conference on anti-social behaviour and have invited the Friends of Marple Memorial Park to come along. Peter said that he would probably go and that if anyone else wanted to go, to let him know.

David Hoyle mentioned about the eyesore that is Hanbury's building at the entrance to the park. He asked whether the Friends of Marple Memorial Park could help in applying pressure to the Co-op to do something about it. There was some discussion around what has happened so far, what the council is doing and what other agencies are doing.

Action: Peter to construct a letter to the Co-op on behalf of the Friends requiring that something is done about the building.

Jay asked whether the group should plan another task day. Peter said that it was a good idea and this could be done to install the benches, but needed a date of when they can be made before the group organises a task day. It was also suggested that the group could tackle the area of the last task day where roots are now beginning to grow.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 20th September 2004 at 6.30p.m. at Marple Library.