

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Committee Meeting
Monday 6th June 2005

Minutes

Present: Peter Clarke (chairman), Mark Whittaker, Jay Havoleana, Brian Nash, David Hoyle, Andt Settle, Peter Bardsley, Bob Wilson, Bill Arden, Ken and Margaret Wood, Micaela Wood, Councillor Andrew Bispham and Adrian Ellis.

Apologies: David Burrows, Chris Armitt, and Kay Blair.

1. Matters Arising

• **Graffiti Art Scheme**

Peter Clarke attended a Graffiti Art workshop on Wednesday 27th April.

There are grants available and Peter feels hopeful the Graffiti Art Project in the Park would qualify for one. Peter has contacted Marple Hall School to see if they would like to be involved in the project and will meet with the Head teacher in the near future.

Andy Settle thought that this would be a good project for the community bus to become involved in. The CO-OP has agreed to allow murals to be painted on the blackout windows of the old Hanburys store.

Action: Peter to complete forms and arrange meeting with Head Teacher Marple Hall School.

• **Jim Heald Bench**

The Jim Heald Bench fund now stands at £628.71 Peter brought the Bench Brochures to the Meeting and the group chose a Victorian Bench made from wood and cast iron that will be installed close to the new children's play area.

Action: Peter to contact playgroup maintenance over the ordering of the bench.

• **Lighting**

The lighting in the park that is not working is waiting for the electric board to carry out its electric tests before it can be switched on. It has been noted that there are still some columns that require painting.

• **Litter Bins**

The litterbins and the goal post have now been installed and seem to be a great success.

• **Newsletter**

The newsletter has been completed by Mark Whittaker and should be ready for distribution on time. Kay Blair and the youth offending team will help distribution.

The A5 flyers for recruitment drive will be ready to be delivered with the newsletter.

• **The Community Bus**

The community bus suffered a break down and it was proposed that the friends would donate £200 towards the cost of repairs due to its good work with the young people within the park.

The project still continued without the bus and this received a great response from the young people.

- **Bird and Bat Boxes**

Adrian provided information on bird boxes and peter asked if any member of the group would be prepared to take on the responsibilities of the Wildlife Officer, Micaela Wood took up the role and will report back at the next meeting.

Bill Arden thought that Bird boxes could be obtained and installed for free he will look into this for the next meeting.

Action: Micaela and Bill to report at the next meeting.

- **Play Area**

Mike Craig is hoping that work will start on the new play area in the next 2 weeks.

- **Picnic Benches**

The installation of the picnic benches has been delayed due to Dave Francis leaving the probation service. When his replacement is in post the work will continue.

2. Park Cottage

Norman Hudson has responded to Peter Clarke's letter and believes that the cottage can not be sold as originally thought due to the legal codicil of the park.

The building will have to be used for the community and the friends felt that they should come up with ideas as to the use of the building. It was brought to the friend's attention, that a new lottery scheme 'peoples Millions' is targeting community use. It would appear that we would fit the criteria exactly, should we use the cottage for any of the following:

- I. Tea Rooms
- II. Heritage Centre
- III. Aid and Advice Centre
- IV. Links with the Community bus

The local charity CHARIS that runs the community bus is at present putting together a bid to have a feasibility study carried out by the DTI on the old Hanburries building. If possible they would include the parks cottage within the project and bid.

It was suggested that a member of the group approach the area committee at they're next meeting and ask what the council's intentions, if any, are for future use of the cottage.

Action: David Brayshay to attend area committee.

3. Green Flag

On the 27th May the park underwent its annual Green Flag inspection. The weather was kind on the day and the park was full of people enjoying the facilities.

The inspection seemed to go well and it is hoped that the park retains its green flag. The results should be known by the end of July.

4. Parks Report

The park is currently preparing for its summer bedding which, will be planted from the 6th June onwards. The grass is continuing on a weekly and fortnightly basis.

The students on their NVQS at Ridge Danyers College will be helping install the bedding.

Health walks will be starting in the park every Monday morning.

The friend's notice board has been damaged and it is hoped the repair will be carried out shortly.

5. Any Other Business

Bill said that some of the new lights were not painted and was there a reason?

He thought that the log bench was becoming an eye sore at the front of the park. Peter pointed out that at the recent green flag inspection the judges commented that the bench was a good use of nature resources.

Bill also asked if the gap in the hedge on station road could be blocked off for carnival Saturday to stop cars entering the site.

Bob Wilson brought to the attention of Peter Clarke that the pavilion in the park contains a plaque which, says that the shelter was erected by the ex service men of Marple, in memory of their comrades who fell in the Graet War of 1914 – 1918. This makes the shelter a War Memorial and as such Peter will investigate having the building listed as an official War Memorial.

Mr. M. S Arnfield, the chair of Marple Council planted the large Oak tree in the park close to the war memorial to commemorate the Queen's coronation. The tree was planted. Peter thought that it might be a nice idea to reinstall a plaque and a bench around the tree.

Peter also thought that the group could apply for a green space development grant to help fund the project.

The Marple Locks Festival takes place in the park on the 10th July this is also the day that has been chosen as a National Commemorate those Friends thought that it would be nice to plant a tree to commemorate those who died in World War Two. Peter suggested asking the Mayor to plant the tree.

Date and Time of Next Meeting Monday 4th July at 6.30pm at Marple Library