

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Adrian Ellis, Mick Thompson, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Joyce Reed, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Cllr Malcolm Allan, Patrick O'Herlihy.

**2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed.

### **3.0 Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Better Football Provision**

**Additional Goalposts:** Park conditions are now improving and Mark will arrange to meet with Wayne to discuss locations of the new goalposts.

**Long-term improvements:** Richard has put together a budget price of around £35,000 for replacing the basketball court with a MUGA.

Canvas Spaces have still to provide a design for the top section of the skatepark. We had hoped to display this during the Easter "Celebration Jam" but this will not be possible. Mark will chase Canvas for a delivery date.

#### **3.2 Fencing of Bowling Green**

Mark met with Richard and the contractor on 7<sup>th</sup> April. General details and locations for the benches to be re-sited were agreed. The fencing start date will depend on material deliveries but is likely to be early to mid-May and take around 5 to 6 weeks.

#### **3.3 Play Areas and Play Equipment**

##### **Infants Play Area Improvements**

The problems with the chime unit on the Pirate Ship have been resolved satisfactorily.

##### **Infants Play Area Gates**

Richard advises there has been some confusion on the order between installer and supplier and the new gates are not yet ready. Latest indication is they will be available in 2 weeks time and their installation will be treated as a priority when they arrive.

#### **3.4 Park Attendant**

Cllr Allan was unable to attend today but has passed on a reply from Ian O'Donnell that reiterates all the things that have been said before and shows a lack of understanding. It misses the point completely and is unsatisfactory.

The simple fact is that we were told by four local councillors that we would keep the full time park keeper but this didn't happen. Cllr Allan has proved that the money was left in the budget specifically for the purpose of retaining the full time park attendant role following outcry from the public consultation. In our view this money has not even been spent in our park as we have only received the same care from the roving team that would have been included if the saving had been approved.

It was debated and agreed that the only satisfactory outcome would be to identify the sum of money involved, recover it from SSK and reinvest it in the park.

Mark will suggest this as a resolution to Cllr Allan.

### **3.5 Park Benches**

Terry delivered the restored picnic bench back to the park on Thursday 23 March. It was planned to reinstall during the 25 March Task Day but the existing concrete left in the ground proved to be too much of an obstacle. Bernard and Mark broke out the old concrete during an extra ad-hoc task day on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> and then reinstalled it with the help of Malcolm during a second ad-hoc session on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The group thanked Terry for his efforts in transporting and repairing the bench and it was proposed and agreed to acknowledge the support of the David Lewis Centre with a donation of £25. Terry will issue an invoice / receipt to cover.

Prices for refurbishing the Woodville benches in the park are now clearer and Mark will be meeting two possible donors on Wednesday.

### **3.6 Town Centre Benches**

Last one on Market St and the Hollins benches to be followed up soon. First step is to prepare a new Risk Assessment and get task days approved.

Wilsons have been approached twice this year about the bench outside their shop but have yet to respond.

An agreement has been facilitated between the council's Highways Team and Monty Burton's family about replacing the bench on Possett Bridge.

### **3.7 Park Buildings and Infrastructure**

Myers Tree Care is still on the lookout for replacement logs and a suitable trunk for the longer-term replacement of Midnight. Another ground sculpture was knocked loose recently and has now been relocated to the woodland to rot down.

The new halyard has been fitted to the flagpole near the War Memorial.

It was agreed to wait until the bowling green fencing is installed before painting the bowling pavilion woodwork and metalwork.

### **3.9 Skatepark Development Project**

#### **Latest Skatepark Project News**

A further £94.60 has been received via Local Giving. All matched payments are now received but some Gift Aid is still to come in. Eight direct debits are still live.

The skatepark is complete and opened on 29 March, just in time for school holidays.

Feedback has been good except for a report of fighting on a Saturday evening. This has not been reported to police despite our encouragement to the witness to do so.

Our video of the new skatepark has been viewed 29,000 times and the FB page reports that almost 85,000 people have been reached. Feedback is overwhelmingly positive. *(Post meeting note: 3 complains about anti-social behaviour, safety and similar issues have been received from residents of St Martin's Road. These have been fully documented to the council's Greenspace Team, Police and Cllr Allan).*

The statement about Life Leisure's £11,750 community award was approved and released via social media and web sites on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

The new concrete slab to the existing lower section that was funded by Life Leisure's community award needed extra drainage installed at a cost of £1,880. This was paid for by Stockport Council.

An invoice for our £50,000 contribution has been received from Stockport Council and the cheque for payment was signed at the meeting.

A council press release should go out this week.

### **Outstanding things to do:**

- Steel benches to sandblast, paint and install (FoMMP).
- Blockwork, screed (council) and paint (FoMMP) to rear of old quarter-pipe.
- Astro turf in difficult to mow locations (council).
- Paint vertical sections on old ramps to match new (FoMMP).
- Landscaping / topsoil and seeding (council).
- Repairs / tarmac to pathways (council).
- New bins (council).

### **Celebration Jam:**

A "Celebration Jam" has been arranged for Easter Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. There will be music provided by some skatepark users, food and drink by Woodstock Pizza and we will have a display thanking those who have contributed funds to the project.

Set up is from 9am and the event will run from 10am to 4pm and off-site by 5pm.

The biggest problem is likely to be litter, so we'll be prepared for that with extra bags.

### **Possible event at Marple Carnival on 17<sup>th</sup> June:**

We are also looking at an event during Marple Carnival with Team Extreme using the surplus funding that we have left over. Currently we have some prices and options from Team Extreme and have asked Marple Carnival Committee if they are OK with it.

## **3.10 World War I Centenary Commemorations**

### **Timeline Commemoration**

Latest additions are Edward Yarwood on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, John Hallam on 25<sup>th</sup>, Stanley Ridgeway on 26<sup>th</sup>, Len Robinson on 31<sup>st</sup> and James Duxbury on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Next are George Fielding tomorrow, Albert Ferns on 15<sup>th</sup>, Alfred Sutton and George Miller on 23<sup>rd</sup>, John Tefft on 26<sup>th</sup>, John Brown on 29<sup>th</sup> and Tom Bennett on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Ian Hilton has emailed to say that he has not been Chair of MSCA for over a year [our mistake] but did put our proposals to their committee. Subsequently he received a letter saying "MSCA have already donated a bench and decline the request".

### **WW2 Plaque**

Shooting of Anne's Warship Week film is now largely complete and we await the first cut for review. Anne hopes to enter the film into a competition by end of April.

### **War Memorial Registration and Survey Workshop**

We have still to apply for statutory listing of the war memorial.

## **3.11 Bee Friendly Plants and Shrubs**

We've received grants of £200 from Stockport Hydro and £300 from Anchorpoint.

Mark met with Stockport Hydro sponsor Sue Thorpe in the park on 25 March and she is happy with our plans. We need to take photos and keep receipts.

We've purchased and planted 500 Snowdrops at a cost of £43.50, so we currently have £456.50 to spend on more Bee Friendly additions in the next 4 to 5 months.

A separate meeting between Gill, Joyce, Lorraine and Micaela will take place tomorrow to consider our next purchases, including more Snowdrops for the woodland.

### **3.11 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Day – 25 March 2017**

We were joined by volunteers from Marple Co-Op for the first time. They seemed to enjoy it and we hope that they will come again.

We had a good tidy-up of the flowerbeds and put green-away on park benches.

500 Snowdrops were planted as part of the Bee Friendly project.

A record £48 was collected in our donations bucket.

Ad-hoc task days were held on 30<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April.

#### **Next Task Days – 15 and 29 April 2017**

Parking is arranged and emails will be sent out nearer the time.

The Bandroom garden will need pruning and strimming.

15 April is the first mid-month task day of the year.

#### **Julian Wadden will join us for the Family Treasure Hunt on 29 April.**

Di Jackson is organising sponsors and raffle prizes.

The event application has been submitted and approved.

Micaela will cover first aid requirements.

We will need volunteers to manage the stall.

#### **27 May Task Day**

Mark and Gill will not be able to attend, so Bernard will take the lead and Bob agreed to support if he's there. We can agree tasks nearer the time.

#### **Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments**

Everything is up-to-date and we are covered until 30 June 2017.

A refresher pack was issued to Task Leaders on 21 March 2017.

Mark also advised that our General RA has been updated following his accident at Oldknow Gardens on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The learning from this incident is that safety footwear with a projective mid-sole should be worn when doing heavy digging and a spade with a rolled top edge should also be used in these circumstances. The accident was properly reported to the council using the forms from the Team Leader training pack.

#### **Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2017**

15 & 29 April, 13 & 27 May, 10 & 24 June, 15 & 29 July, 12 & 26 August, 16 & 30 September, 14 & 28 October, 11 & 25 November, 30 December.

#### **Training**

Several dates have become available but unfortunately do not suit Micaela or Lorraine. Mark will notify the organisers and ask to be kept updated on future dates.

Dates are still awaited for Mick and Bob to do the power-tools training.

#### **Power Tools**

No change.

#### **4.0 Funding - Status of Funds**

Last statement on 22 March shows £52,033.43 and current balance is £52,494.

##### **Income since last meeting includes:**

£200.00	Stockport Hydro.
£94.60	Local Giving.
£470.00	Treasure Hunt sponsorship.
£300.00	Anchorpoint.
£15.00	Bandroom SO.
£6.37	Interest.
£73.28	Collected in park.

##### **Expenditure since last meeting:**

£29.95	Wheelbarrow repair.
£43.50	Snowdrop bulbs.
£7.99	Round-Up Gel.

Income year to date is £2,214 and spends year to date £224.66.

Income total is now £100,966, so we have broken through a significant milestone with more than £100k raised by the group since it was formed in 2003. This is only the money passing through our own account and it does not include other investments in the park that are as a result of the group's efforts.

Committed funds are: Skatepark £51,251, WWI Display £128, Town Centre Benches £28 and Bee Friendly Plants £456.50. This leaves a working balance of £881.

##### **Local Giving:**

A direct debit renewal has been set up to take advantage of an offer of 50% off the annual membership fee for next year, so this will only cost us £36. For future years the annual cost is increasing to £98, so it is a significant saving.

##### **Year end accounts**

Audit is complete and ready for the AGM.

#### **5.0 Any Other Business**

##### **5.1 AGM**

The AGM has been postponed until 8 May as Adrian has been away and Mark was unable to contact him. Adrian is planning to move away from the area but it is unlikely to happen until late this year at the earliest. This means Adrian can continue as Chair for the immediate future if no one else wishes to step in, or there can be a change-over at the AGM, or later in the year when the need arises.

So Adrian and Mark asked other volunteers to consider if they would like to take over the Chair role at the AGM or if they would be prepared to step in when Adrian leaves.

Mick and Lorraine gave their apologies for the next meeting.

##### **5.2 Naming of driveway into the park**

Further to discussions last month, Mark has dug out correspondence showing that the name "Memorial Park Drive" was officially adopted in 2010 and confirmed by the Royal Mail but the council has never completed the instruction to install the street name plates. Copies of the correspondence have been passed to local councillors with a request that this matter be resurrected and the name plates installed.

### **5.3 Noticeboard on Market Street**

Micaela mentioned that the Senior Citizens were trying to get a noticeboard installed in the Town Centre and were looking for help. This is a project that has been talked about for many years. It was discussed and agreed that this is outside of our remit as Friends of Marple Memorial Park.

### **5.4 French Boules evenings**

It is proposed to restart the French Boules group on Tuesday nights from early May.

### **6.0 Next Meeting (AGM)**

Monday 8 May 2017 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

### **Future meeting dates scheduled for 2017 (library booked):**

8 May and 12 June 2017.

Dates for July 2017 to June 2018 have been requested.