

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 8th August 2016
Marple Library**

Present: Joyce Reed, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Mick Thompson, Cllr. Malcolm Allan, Cllr. Annette Finnie, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Lorraine Thompson, Patrick O'Herlihy, Adrian Ellis.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 ASB / CCTV

Change to CCTV Cycle

A meeting with Public Realm Manager Johanna Smith and SSK CCTV Engineers was held on 19 July and the camera cycle has now been amended satisfactorily.

Fencing / gating of the WWI Bowling Pavilion

We await an invoice for our contribution to this work from Greenspace.

Covenants and By-laws (permitting an improved Football Facility)

Cllr. Allan has been pursuing a solution to this and advised that Ian Walmsley has now written to the joint chairs of Marple Area Committee seeking permission to conduct a short and simple consultation that would be appropriate to address this matter.

There may be more news on this at Marple AC on Wednesday.

Cllr. Allan will seek to ensure that the group is consulted as part of the process.

3.2 Play Areas and Play Equipment

A meeting at the park was held with Richard Booker on 29 June to discuss practical options for using commuted sums of £13,526 currently available to improve the Infant Play Area equipment. Following on from this Richard published a schedule of options and recommendations with budget prices for the group to consider.

The priorities agreed with Richard are a) replacement of the swings, which are nearing the end of their useful life, b) replacement of the Wendy house, which over time has been damaged and abused by youths using the area in the evenings, and c) replacement of the old "Springers" area with something new and more exciting.

Options to replace the swings are a three-bay set with 4 toddler seats plus a basket seat and new safe surface carpet costing approx £10,500; or a like-for-like double-bay of 4 toddler seats including new safe surface carpet costing approx £8,000.

It is proposed to replace the Wendy house with a piece of equipment that does not provide shelter attractive to older youths at night. It is also proposed to maintain the loose nautical theme reflecting the history of the area originally being a boating pool. To this end several "Play Ship" options were put forward by Richard.

These details were considered by the group and the conclusion was that we would prefer to proceed with the double bay of Toddler Swings at approx £8,000 (including green carpet safe surface to match existing), plus the "Ship style" Sutcliffe toddler unit at approx £4,500 (including blue carpet safe surface to represent water).

The principal reasons for choosing the double bay of swings against the three bay option were the available space and concerns over potential abuse of the basket seat by older youths - we believe it would encourage them into the play area in quieter hours to abuse this equipment - leading to regular damage and higher maintenance.

The group also feel it is better value for money to be able to replace both the swings and the Wendy house at the same time.

Based on budget prices this would leave approximately £1,000 in commuted sums allocated to the park. We would expect this to build back up over time from future local developments, eventually providing sufficient funds to replace the old springer section in the play area at a later date.

Mark will convey the group's conclusions to Richard.

3.3 Park Attendant

With regard to the questions asked last month, Cllr Allan gave a provisional update and advised that his investigations were ongoing.

A reminder of the questions:

- Was the Executive decision to maintain the budget for a full time attendant agreed at the Annual Budget meeting in March?

And if so:

- What has happened to that money?
- It is not being spent on a full time attendant and the proposed cuts included our park being maintained by a roving teams, as it is now. So it could be construed that the money is possibly being spent in a completely different way to how the Executive decided. So, how and where is it the money being spent?

3.4 Park Benches

General Bench Maintenance

Patrick is well on top of park bench maintenance with most of them having been treated at least once. The metalwork on the Bowling Green and Boules Court benches was painted with black Hammerite during the last task day.

Town Centre Benches

The Helen Winterson sponsored bench was completed recently by Mick, Bernard and Mark. We've checked that the shop is happy with the outcome.

The Gould-Martin family sponsored bench has been tackled by Bernard Patrick and Mark. It just needs the plaques to be fitted and a final coat of preservative.

We need to make as much progress as we can on others before winter but cannot start until we've received confirmed sponsorship. Mark will pursue this with some of the other businesses and organisations that originally expressed an interest.

The task day application is valid until the end of October.

We've received £480 of sponsorship for the 3 benches completed so far and spent £280 on plaques and materials. We have enough materials for several more benches, so it was agreed to transfer the £200 surplus to the Skatepark Project funding.

(Post meeting note: Marple Civic Society has paid £160 sponsorship for the next bench and have chosen one that they and the Macnair Trust originally sponsored in 2004 when they were first installed.)

3.5 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

The council has fixed the heater that was hanging off the wall in the Mess Room.

The council has replaced the Bowlers Hut doors we reported.

SSK has had a partial clear-out of the Pavilion store and it is much improved.

The Green Waste area has been cleared out by SSK and we've asked them to stop spreading grass cuttings all across the front access as it is causing a slip hazard.

The group has fitted new Perspex to the library and Skatepark noticeboards.

The decayed logs near to Midnight the tree sculpture have been disposed of by Myers Tree Care for us and they are on the lookout for suitable replacements. David Myers is also on the lookout for a trunk that will be suitable for a replacement sculpture in the longer term when Midnight has decayed beyond repair.

3.6 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

The £1,000 grant from Stockport Homes has been received.

We raised £343 at Marple Carnival on the day, plus Skate Jam page donations of £85 + £25 match-funding + £18.75 Gift-Aid. After fees of £8.56 the total was £463. We've also had a £150 donation from Marple Carnival Committee recently.

Treasure Hunt money now all received, plus an extra £30 from Paul David Jewellery.

The #GiveMe5 campaign attracted £340 of donations, £30 of match-funding and £55 of Gift-Aid. After fees of £31.31 this came to a total of £394. (Some of the #GiveMe5 match-funding came via the Skate Jam page – see above – total was £55 altogether).

We've received a donation of £100 from the Charles Ingham Bandroom Fund.

We've received an extra £50 from Romiley and Marple Lions.

We've received £50 from Asda for the second round of "Chosen by You...".

We've also received a brilliant donation of £600 from Marple Hall School.

Skatepark Funding Update:

Target:	£100,000	
Community Funding:	£41,711	(growth of £2,004 since last meeting).
With match funding:	£83,421	
Balance needed:	£16,579	(reduced by £4,007 since last meeting).
We need to raise:	£8,289	(50% of balance).

Fund Raising Events:

Photography Exhibition at Samuel Oldknow's

The exhibition was launched on 8 July with a Cheese and Wine evening and is currently still running with no fixed end. Mark has sold 2 canvases so far raising £80 (not included in figures above). No confirmed news from other exhibitors at the moment. There is also a collection bucket on the bar that has yet to be checked.

Mellor Mill Fact and Fun Day – Sunday 4 September

We've been invited to take our Splat the Rat to the Mellor Mill Day. New volunteers Mary and Mike have said they can help, Mick, Lorraine, Micaela, Terry, Gill and Mark are also available so we can go ahead.

Terry will pass the "Wheel of Fortune" to Mark to have a look at how it can be used.

Art Auction

Mellor Art Society and Silk 'n' Threads have expressed an interest in contributing. Next step is to fix a date that is suitable for everyone involved. Steve Abbott is currently away, due back next week. Once he's available we can hopefully finalise details. *(PMN: Joyce has established available Friday dates at the Conservative Club in October are 14th or 21st and also emailed Graham Heywood to check his availability.)*

Food and Drink Day – Saturday 17 September

Micaela advised that around half the prizes have been collected from local shops and businesses. There are lots of gift vouchers, Icing on the Cake will make a special cake and Claudio's will be providing cup cakes again.

Mark will send out an email request for volunteers and confirm stall details with the Food and Drink Day organisers.

(PMN: The organisers say that this year they are planning for Food Stalls only on Market Street, which cost £79. We can have a free stall on Derby Way but will have to provide our own gazebos. This has been agreed with them.)

Christmas Collections at Asda 15 to 17 December

This is all booked up, however, the manager is due to change again soon. Also Jenny the Community Life Champion has moved to another store and is not expected to be replaced in the role. The current manager Chris believes that existing store collection bookings will be honoured but wasn't sure about future arrangements.

Cllr. Allan advised that the new manager called Simon is due to start on 18 August. He plans to meet with him soon after and will make him aware of the group's work.

We can hopefully maintain our good relationship with the store by meeting with the new manager and confirming details in advance of purchasing the branded vests and a pop-up display that we will need for the collections.

3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

11 men were added in July. The display has been extended ready for future additions. Joe Bennett is due on 14th August, Basil Carver on 21st and Ernie Trust on 29th.

WW2 Plaque

The WW2 plaque is now mounted on the stone, which has been sealed to deter algae growth, and is now ready for installation. Mounting screws cost £8.65.

Adrian has donated five bags of postcrete for the installation.

The new information plaque to go on the side has been ordered at a total cost of £85. There has been a hiccup over the payment of an additional £1.75 because we asked for extra holes to be drilled. This was paid by BACS on 1st August but the supplier is claiming that they cannot trace the payment in their bank account. *(Post meeting note: this issue has now been resolved and the plaque is due for despatch on 22 August, subject to workload.)*

The main target for installation completion is the 75th anniversary of the War Ship Week event in November, however, as the Marple Review would like to feature a story about this in their September issue we will try to arrange early installation and then fit the new plaque in-situ afterwards.

There will not be a formal unveiling ceremony but the History Society hope to do some photos with the group and the lady who donated the plaque.

3.7 Task Days

Last Task Days – 25 June, 16 and 30 July 2016

Work to flowerbeds, shrub beds and maintenance of benches has continued. The ivy has been removed from the toilet block and new items planted in its place. New Perspex has been installed in two notice boards. Hanging basket tubs donated by Friends of Rose Hill Station have been used to enhance Danny Winter's bench and the Charles Ingham Bandroom garden has had lots of work done too.

Next Task Days – 13 and 27 August 2016

Free parking has been granted for these dates.

Mark will send out the task day emails around a week in advance.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2016

Approved: 13 & 27 August, 10 & 24 Sept, 29 Oct, 26 Nov and 26 December.

To register: All of 2017.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days are approved on the council's system until 31 December 2016.

Town Centre Benches are covered until 31 October 2016.

We've carried out a number of task days to progress the bench refurbishments.

Risk Assessments / Training

Risk Assessments are up to date. The new Health and Safety Policy adopted during the last meeting has been published on our web site.

We are still waiting for suitable dates for Lorraine and Micaela to do the Team Leader training and for Mick and Bob to do the power-tools training.

Power Tools

Nothing new.

3.10 Equity Housing Grant for Tools

Recent purchases include Perspex sheets £52.40, Diamond Cutting Disks £3.80, security bits and sanding discs £12.50.

Total spend to date is £254, with a balance of £246 still to spend by end of the year.

Micaela suggested more "big hands" leaf collectors and mentioned that a lady called Maria from Marple Beavers is hoping to get them more involved in the park. We'll have a check of how many pairs we currently have.

Mark will look in more detail at better quality edging shears.

(Post meeting note: 2 pairs of Bahco edging shears and 1 set of lawn shears plus a sharpening stone have been purchased at a cost of £105.74).

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Latest statement dated 22 July 2016 shows a bank balance of £45,595.68.

Income since last meeting includes:

£668.86	Via local giving.
£190.00	Treasure Hunt income.
£343.73	Marple Carnival (on the day).
£1,000.00	Stockport Homes.
£100.00	Marple Bandroom.
£600.00	Marple Hall School.
£41.00	Various donations to the Skatepark Project.
£50.00	Asda, Chosen by You.
£50.00	Romiley and Marple Lions.
£150.00	Marple Carnival Committee.
£51.52	Collected in the park.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£9.00	Sweets for Splat the Rat.
£60.00	2 x Gazebo banners.
£83.69	Equity Funds spent.
£4.35	Tools and materials (screws and rawl plugs for photo exhibition).

Income this year to date is now £15,000.

Spent year to date is £1,064.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park £41,711, Pavilion Fencing £3,150, Tools £247, WWI Display £128 and Town Centre Benches £200 (to be moved to skatepark).

This leaves a working balance of £213.

There is approximately £27 collected in the park still to pay into bank plus a £20 donation to the skatepark. There are pending expenses of £3.60 on SS screws for fixing plaques to be claimed. These sums are not included in the above figures.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Band Room Garden

The Charles Ingham Bandroom Fund were very pleased with the work we did on their garden recently and have made a one-off donation of £100 to acknowledge this. They have also agreed to make regular payments of £15 per month for us to keep on top of future garden maintenance issues for them.

We have recommended that an old wire fence inside the boundary is removed and replaced with a new external one. The Bandroom Committee are considering this.

5.2 Ash trees taking hold on shrub beds

Bob identified that there are lots of Ash tree saplings that have taken root in the shrub beds that need spading out. We will tackle this during the next task days.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 12 September 2016 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2016/17 (library booked):

10 October, 14 November and 12 December 2016.

9 January, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May and 12 June 2017.