

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 8th December 2008
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Dave Burrows, Sandra Ellis.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 BBC Breathing Places Reading Area

Interpretation Board

The board was installed during the last task day on 29 November. The legs were longer than expected but this was overcome by burying them deeper. There is a minor issue with the background colour of the logos and Mark has asked Rebecca to discuss this with the supplier.

(Post meeting note: Linda Paton has said she is very pleased with the board and has passed on her thanks to the Friends and Park Staff.)

Outstanding Expenditure

An invoice for £915 for the interpretation board is awaited. This is the only outstanding expenditure from the Breathing Places grant.

A sum of £485 remains in the Friends' account from the Green Space Development grant awarded in June 2007 to cover the fees associated with this project. Mark will make enquiries with Rebecca about whether we will be invoiced for these.

(Post meeting note: Rebecca has confirmed that we will not be charged the fees and Mark has agreed with Iain Bate that the £485 can be put towards the shortfall of funds needed for the basketball court fence, freeing up money raised by the group for other activities.)

Project Completion

The project completion report is ready and will be submitted tomorrow.

3.2 Basketball Court Fence

An order has been placed for the fence and work should begin in the New Year. The total cost is £5,963.45 and it will largely be covered by the commuted sum of £5,530.40 approved by Marple Area Committee. The group will make up the shortfall of £433.

A new page still needs to be added to the group's web site about the basketball court improvements.

3.3 Infants Play Area

Replacement Graphics

An order has been placed and the work is still outstanding.

(Post meeting note: Rebecca has advised that the work needs to be carried out when the weather is dry and frost-free. The contractor is waiting for suitable conditions.)

Playground Sign and sculptures

Attempts to obtain a firm commitment from Andrew Frost are ongoing.

(Post meeting note: Andrew has advised that the playground sign and apple sculpture were delivered to the Brabyns depot on 18 December.)

Roundabout

Gareth Davies, of Playground Maintenance, has confirmed that he believes the roundabout is performing unsatisfactorily and he is awaiting proposals from Playdale. He will keep us informed of developments.

Gareth has also provided contact details of a local councillor in Winchester who is also experiencing similar problems with the same piece of equipment. Mark will get in touch and see if an exchange of information would be of benefit to either party.

3.4 Boules Court.

Compaction

Compaction of the Boules Court has now been completed.

Commemorative Seating

Mark confirmed that he has now approached Marple Civic Society and the private individuals for the money pledged for commemorative seating. The Civic Society's Treasurer is on holiday, so there will be a short delay but a cheque should be received before Christmas.

(Post meeting note: A cheque for £750 was received from Marple Civic Society Chairman, Alan Posthill, on 19 December.)

One of the private individuals, Mr. J Louth, has donated £1,000 for a seat in memory of his late wife. Mr Louth has said that the extra money should be used to cover the delivery of all the seats and any remaining surplus used in the park as the group feels appropriate. This is a very generous gesture and Mark has already expressed the group's thanks.

The second potential private donation has not yet been received. The group's own finances were discussed and it was agreed that if this donation is not received by the end of the year we will go ahead and pay for the third seat ourselves.

Interpretation

Mark advised that he proposes to approach Marple Business Forum regarding a possible contribution towards the funding needed for the interpretation in the New Year.

3.5 War Memorial

Polishing of Memorial

Consideration of polishing or micro-algaecide spraying is ongoing and Dave will hopefully advise his intentions after he returns from leave at the end of next week.

Memorial Rockery Scheme

Bob advised that he is expecting a flowerbed layout scheme and list of plants from Jacky Budd this week and will share it with the group.

3.6 Task Days

Last Task Day – 29 November

Breathing Places interpretation installed and daffodil bulbs planted in the woodland and the triangular area near the Park Cottage.

Next Task Day – 31 January

Bob confirmed that there should be plenty of tasks to do, including possibly doing some work on the Memorial beds.

Mark will submit the request for free parking and issue the email notification of the event.

3.7 Bird Survey

The results of the first two bird surveys conducted by Ian Hilton on 5th and 22nd November were distributed with the agenda. Ian is listing all birds that can be seen from anywhere within the park, so there are also some waterfowl on the canal included. The group were very interested in the results and noted Ian's highlight that there were no sparrows of any kind spotted on either day.

We look forward to future reports and Mark will pass them on to Dave for inclusion in the next Green Flag Award application.

3.8 Park Cottage/ Band Room Proposals

The deadline of 12 December for submission of expressions of interest from individuals and organisations is now approaching. The bands group have confirmed that their proposal has been submitted.

The Friends Group are hopeful that the band room proposals are successful and look forward to learning the outcome of the council's selection process.

3.9 Stockport Express Feature

Mark visited the Stockport Express to discuss their proposal to run a feature on the Friends of the Park in the paper but unfortunately the reporter was off sick. It was discussed briefly with one of her colleagues and we may hear from them in the New Year if they are still interested in doing it. Mark has advised Marple Business Forum of the potential advertising opportunity that would be linked to the feature.

4.0 Fundraising Activities

Christmas Cracker – 6 December

The Christmas Cracker event was a great success and Micaela passed the cash raised by the Tombola to Mark for checking and banking. It looks to be around £500 before the deduction of float.

(Post meeting note: the profits after deduction of float are £442.13, which is the highest ever earned at an individual event.)

In addition to the tombola profits a further £28 was raised by sales of Gordon Mills' videos and Georgina Hargreaves prints.

Mark will produce a thank you letter for Micaela to distribute to the shops and businesses who contributed prizes for the tombola.

Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights

Dates are 17 December 2008 and 7 January 2009. *(Post meeting note: the first quiz on the 17th December raised the excellent sum of £115.50 for the Friends of the Park.)*

4.1 Status of Funds

Income since last month reported at the meeting was £1,000 from Mr Louth. Expenditure was £45 paid to Wayne Chaisty for repairs to the Coronation Bench.

(Post meeting note: The figures below are updated to include the donation of £750 from Marple Civic Society, the income of £442.13 from the tombola, £28 from DVDs & prints, £115.50 from the Ring o' Bells quiz on 17th December and a £10 football prize donation from one of Mark's work colleagues.)

Current bank balance:	£4,945	
Committed Funds:	£3,151	
Breathing Places		£915
Basketball Fence		£433
Commemorative seating		£1,750
Sundial & Shuttle panels		£53
Working balance:	£1,794	

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob advised that he has been working on the beds at the rear of the council offices, transferring shrubs from the War Memorial beds in preparation for the new scheme. Four sacks of bulbs have been planted, including some in the Rose Beds to provide some early colour before the roses take over.

The bowling green has also had its autumn and winter feed.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Improvements to the Main Entrance

Micaela proposed that we should look at improving the appearance of the main entrance to the park, near to the first notice board and the log bench. A feature flowerbed or shrub display could be considered. It was agreed that we should look at this and see what ideas can be developed.

6.2 Christmas Dinner

Arrangements are all in place for the Christmas dinner at the Sportsman on Saturday 13 December. Taxis have been arranged.

6.3 Frequency of meetings

Mark advised that he would be unable to attend a meeting in January and it was agreed that the next meeting would be in February. It was also suggested that the group should consider meeting bi-monthly instead of monthly. The task days will continue to be held monthly and it will be possible to have a less formal meeting during these if necessary.

7.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 9th February 2009 at 6pm in Marple Library.

List of reminders:

Outdoor Fitness Equipment.
Letter to Wyevale.
Re-painting of Coronation Bench.
Senior Citizens bench proposal.
Re-painting of Bowling Green buildings.