

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 9 December 2019
Marple Library**

Present: Mick Thompson, Lorraine Thompson, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Diane Jackson, Bob Wilson, Cllr Malcolm Allan, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Patrick O'Herlihy, Joyce Reed.

1.1 Minutes of last meeting: Agreed.

2.0 50-50 Club Draw for November 2019:

By the end of November numbers 1 – 76 were registered but 3 of these (27, 33 & 76) were unpaid and were therefore omitted from the draw. The draw was made using a random no. generator App at the meeting. The winners were:

- 1st Prize: £91 - No. 048 Kevin Murray.
- 2nd Prize: £55 - No. 013 Mark Whittaker.
- 3rd Prize: £36 - No. 008 David Goodliffe.

Total income was £365 with £182 in prizes and £183 allocated to Park Funds.

Prize cheques will be written and signed tomorrow by Mark and Micaela.

The Lottery Return was signed at the meeting and will be submitted to SMBC.

Last month we received two bonuses: Di Jackson donated her £47 winnings back to the park and Cllr. Malcolm Allan donated half his winnings (£40) too, with the other half going to another local group. Thanks to them both for their generosity!

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA

A programme was received from Canvas on 28 November showing a start of 6 April 2020 and a completion w/e 15 May (a 6 week programme). It is disappointing that things have pushed out so far but there is little we can do about it. Richard B proposes a pre-start meeting in late February / early March when details will be firmed up.

Richard is still waiting for further information from Canvas, which is like pulling teeth.

Relocation of CCTV Camera: We were advised that TLC would relocate the CCTV camera on Thursday 28 November, but looking out of the window now we can see it has still not been done. Cllr. Allan advised that he would follow this up.

Cllr. Allan provided an email in advance of this meeting summarising his discussions with the resident who raised concerns about ASB at Marple Area Committee. This was shared with all present. The suggestion made by the resident that the Ian Rice commemorative bench be removed has been considered. We asked Ian's family who funded its installation how they felt about it being relocated and they are not happy with the idea. We have therefore rejected this suggestion and agreed with Cllr. Allan that the issues raised will be addressed in other ways, such as extra policing.

Complaints Policy: A first draft complaints policy was issued for comments on 17 November and a final draft issued with the agenda. There were no further comments and everyone was happy to adopt this policy with immediate effect. It will now be added to the schedule of governing documents on the web site.

Mick took the opportunity to commend Cllr. Allan and Mark on the efforts they had gone to in order to deal with this issue in a fair and reasonable way.

3.2 Bowling Green and Buildings

Pavilion Art Project: Mark has met with Stuart Patrick from FoRHS to discuss their Art Project that we are hoping to link-up with. Stuart was very helpful and shared the Rose Hill application, which has raised a few issues concerning the Pavilion:

- Is planning permission required? Wayne has spent some time seeking advice on this and has only just received confirmation that it is not needed.
- Wayne has suggested that we should seek the permission of Property Services. He has raised this with them at least 3 times but so far had no response. It was agreed that Mark would follow this up again and copy in Cllr. Allan, who has offered to support Wayne trying to get consent from Property Services.
- There were also some issues with the FoRHS project that it was felt we should discuss further with Tracy to assess their potential impact on our bid.

After the FoRHS meeting it decided that we should meet again with Tracy and Pete from Art Stop but this was put on hold pending feedback on the need for planning permission. Now that this is resolved Mark will arrange another meeting with them.

Wayne has provided a verbal price of £750 for the proposed hard-standing work.

(Post Meeting Note: we now have the agreement of Property Services and also an excellent supporting letter from Ian Walmsley, Head of Neighbourhoods.)

Painting of Pavilion Building: Planned as a New Year project to clean-up and paint under the canopy so it is ready for the art project to proceed.

Fitting out of Mess Room: The order for the kitchen refit was placed with Stockport Homes on 22 November. They were then ordering materials and once they know availability they will advise a start date. No further news on the over-door heater.

We still need to talk further with Wayne about supply of emulsion and floor paint so that we can redecorate the room after the above works are completed.

3.3 New Sculpture Project

Anne-Louise and Mark met with Wayne Chaisty and Mike Burgess on 12 November, visiting the logs at Chadkirk and the park. Mark advised that it is now clear that it is quite a challenge, both financially and logistically, to create and install 7 large sculpture in the park. However, things are gradually coming together, we are currently waiting for transport and installation costs from Greenspace and working up the draft application to the Arts Council, which is a very comprehensive document.

3.4 Wild-flower Meadow / Lock 11 Compound

Our volunteers filled in ruts in the top third of the area during the last task day but it was difficult to finish as the soil was very wet and couldn't be raked properly.

We are awaiting the meadow preparation work and have £400 in reserves for this. It will probably be in early spring and we will follow straight on to sow seeds.

We are awaiting delivery of new trees and have £250 in reserves to pay for these. Mark has asked Wayne to confirm the planting arrangements.

3.5 Possible Play Area Improvements

Richard is still closing out existing projects, so we won't chase this up until next year.

We hope to visit Manchester Road and Heaton Norris parks to take a look at trampolines and artificial turf at their 5-a-side goal-mouths.

Pirate Ship in Infants Play Area: We will chase-up the drumsticks in the New Year.

3.6 Benches

Park benches general: A small article in the 13 November issue of the Stockport Express mentioned our involvement in this initiative.

The bench on the main path near to the Boules Court has a badly cracked base, even though it is not that old. It is awaiting a new one to be organised by Wayne.

Danny Winter bench: Work all finished and invoice for £651.50 now paid.

Policy for replacement of existing commemorative benches:

The notices on the benches have now been removed after being in place 12 months.

Anthony Crook has confirmed the council are in agreement that:

When the time comes for the benches to be replaced because we consider that maintaining them is no longer viable, we will give the first opportunity to fund replacement benches to the original donor (in the case of the Newiss bench) or the first people on our waiting list for the other two.

They will be replaced with Streetmaster benches like the others in the park.

We will also try to arrange for the existing plaques to be retained on the new benches, perhaps on the back or a lower slat, as a nod to the long-term history.

Timing will be at our discretion – we will try to get as much use as we can out of the existing benches and they may last several more years before they need replacing.

Anthony also thanked the group for our efforts to comply with the council's policy.

3.7 Park Buildings and General Infrastructure

Info board near to Lock 10: Ongoing: awaiting replacement artwork.

Breathing Places Reading Circle: All finished and invoice for £984.92 now paid.

Painting of Infants Play area fence: Further work postponed until 2020.

Possible refurbishment of Park Toilets: Scheme on hold while the built area of the park is considered for the location of a new community centre / swimming pool. Cllr Allan advised that there should be news of the consultation soon after the election.

Possible Water Fountain / Bottle Station: No change.

3.8 Task Days

Last Task Days – 30 November 2019:

We had four DoE Award students with us plus two parents. We planted over 2,000 bulbs plus other tasks but struggled with adding soil to the flowerbeds as it was so wet. Also the soil is not as good quality as previous deliveries. We have covered the bags in the hope that it will dry out a bit for next time we're in the park.

Ad-hoc Task Days: Nothing new.

Next Task Days – 28 December 2019 & 25 January 2020:

Parking has been arranged. Email reminders will be sent out when due.

It was agreed we would hold a task day on 28 December subject to weather.

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments:

Task Day registration is covered until 31 December 2019.

RA's need to be updated and task day application for next year prepared.

Scheduled Task Days in 2019: 28 December.

Training: Awaiting new dates from Wayne Bardsley.

Tools / Power Tools: No change.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Main Bank Account (Barclays): Balance = £9,768.50.

Committed funds are £2,500 ring-fenced for the Skatepark, £400 for Wild-flower Meadow preparation and £250 for new trees, leaving a working balance of £6,618.50.

However, it is noted that we are likely to need an estimated £3k - £4k of match-funding for the Sculpture Trail and Pavilion Art Projects if they go ahead.

Cash from recent park collections and craft and card sales is awaiting paying in.

Income to Main Barclays A/C since the last meeting:

£205.00 October 50-50 Club Draw (£158 Park Fund + £47 donated).
£105.00 Local Giving.
£15.00 Brass Bands of Marple (Garden Maintenance).
£25.00 Donation from Bowling Club.

Expenditure from Barclays A/C since the last meeting:

£1,636.42 Paid to Council (Danny Winter Setts + Reading Circle Refurbishment)

Year end accounts will soon need to be prepared.

50-50 Club A/C (Santander): Balance = £1,324.00 (advance payments = £650).

Income to Santander 50-50 Club A/C since the last meeting:

£285.00 50-50 Club payments during November
£20.00 50-50 Club payments during December.
£20.00 50-50 Club advanced payments.

Expenditure from Santander A/C since the last meeting:

£79.00 November 1st Prize (not yet banked).
£47.00 November 2nd Prize (donated by winner: transferred to main account)
£31.00 November 3rd Prize (banked)
£158.00 Transferred to main Barclays Account.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 St Martin's Christmas Tree Festival

This was all set-up by Micaela, Lorraine and Gill on Thursday. Printed baubles were created by Diane and Gill. The trees are due to be taken down on 6 January 2020.

5.2 Marple College adoption of flowerbed

Nothing new except that we now know the provisional timing of the skatepark and MUGA works and the bed will probably not be accessible until June. We may need to create a new flowerbed instead, or as a temporary measure.

5.3 Christmas Crafts "bring and buy"

Di and Gill have held one event, raising £105 between them. 2nd event is tomorrow.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 13 January 2020 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2020 (library booked):

13 January 2020, 10 February, 9 March, 13 April, 11 May, 8 June 2020.