

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 12th May 2014
Marple Library**

Present: Adrian Ellis (part-time), Terry Wood, Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Joyce Reed, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Anne Frazer, Patrick O’Herlihy, Mick & Lorraine Thompson.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting (AGM): Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Registering as a charity

The Charity Commission has responded to the enquiry about the suitability of our constitution to say that they do not give pre-registration advice.

Citizen’s Advice were unable to verify if we are legally obliged to become a charity due to our income but did feel that it would be the right thing for us to do. On this basis it was decided to proceed with the registration process and see what happens.

Mark has distributed the Guidance for Trustees and the Safeguarding Guidance and all committee members have reviewed them and are happy to proceed. Proposed Trustees are all seven existing committee members: Adrian Ellis; Mark Whittaker; Micaela Wood; Patrick O’Herlihy; Terry Wood; Bob Wilson and Gill Whittaker.

The minor changes to the constitution discussed at the AGM in April have been made and the revised document distributed to all AGM attendees. All proposed Trustees present signed a copy of the constitution. Gill has signed already and Mark will cover this separately with Patrick, as he was unable to attend today’s meeting.

The Trustee Declaration was reviewed and signed by all proposed Trustees present. Gill has signed already and Mark will cover separately with Patrick.

(Post meeting note: Patrick signed the constitution and Trustee Declaration on 17 May and the application was submitted on 18 May. An acknowledgement was received from the Charity Commission on 21 May saying that they will respond by 11 June.)

3.2 Additional CCTV Cameras

We’ve learned that a report was submitted for review at the 16 April 2014 Area Committee Meeting. We were not told of its publication or given an opportunity to comment on it and did not receive any notification that it was to be reviewed at the meeting. We were not even told afterwards that it was reviewed and only discovered this by reading Marple Civic Society’s report on the meeting on their web site.

Examination of the report after the event reveals that it is not the Feasibility Study we expected to be carried out based on Cllr Candler’s comments at the March Area Committee Meeting but simply an historic report on the discussions and meetings that took place between Friends of the Park, the Community Safety Unit and SSK. The report muddles the issues of deployable cameras and permanent cameras and as a feasibility study into the options for extra permanent cameras to cover the front of the library, the bowling green and buildings, the toilets and infants play area is totally unsatisfactory. Mark has written to Cllr Candler and the Community Safety Unit to advise them of our disappointment in the way this has been handled and subsequently also discussed it with Cllr Candler at Marple Library. We will continue trying to get the council to work with us on this as it is in the best interests of the park.

Bob commented that from his long experience of working in the park the report appears to play down the anti-social behaviour that occurs on a regular basis. It talks about "possible drug use" and states that only 13 ABS logs have been received in a 12-month period (we have issued 24 since January this year).

We believe the majority of park users and stakeholders are not aware of the ASB logging. It was agreed that it's important to report all anti-social behaviour using them. Mark will contact the Scouts, Senior Citizens, Brass Bands and the Bowlers to make them aware of the system and ask them to submit logs to us for onward transmission to the Community Safety Unit so that we are also aware of all issues that occur.

Terry will investigate the best person to contact for Marple Scouts.

3.2 Park Benches

Extra Picnic Bench inside Infants Play Area

Terry advised that the new bench is now finished and the storage problem is resolved. He'll endeavour to get it delivered so that it can be installed at the end of the month.

General Bench Maintenance

The new commemorative bench donated by the Tomlinson family has now been installed in the Infants Play Area by a council contractor. The hard surface we requested under the bench between the two play areas has also been completed.

Jonathan has ordered a supply of wood preservative for treating benches and sculptures and this should be delivered soon. *(PMN: 5 x 5L tins received 22 May.)*

Patrick is seeking sponsors for the 3 concrete benches near the bowling green hedge.

The Coronation Bench will be tackled during a suitable task day.

Town Centre Benches

Arrangements to be made as minuted previously.

3.3 Treatment of Sculptures & Wooden Features

Stabilisation of "Midnight" Tree Sculpture

Stockport Homes has accepted our grant application and it's currently featured in the "Community Count" on-line and will be displayed at the Open Day at Brinnington tomorrow. We should hear in the next week or two if it is successful.

Rose Hill and St. Mary's Primary Schools got behind us and published details in their weekly newsletters to parents so hopefully voting will be positive. Mark highlighted that some critical comments had been made about this on the Marple Website forum. The comments were reviewed and it was agreed that they didn't merit a response.

Terry has made a fantastic job of refitting the squirrel's tail that was broken by vandals using a steel bar and the surplus resin from the Diamond Jubilee skate-stops installation. The group thanked Terry for his efforts on this.

Infants Play Area Fence

Mark has done an inspection and the fence will need jet washing again before it can be painted. It will be easier to do this after the outside tap is installed.

3.4 Park Buildings

Repairs

Some damage has recently been done to tiles and rainwater gutters by vandals climbing on the roofs of the Bowling Pavilion and Bowlers Hut (obviously cameras would have prevented this or helped catch the culprits). It was reported to the council last week and there was a contractor working on it by Thursday, which is excellent.

Not excellent is that the repairs to the Mess Room window have still not been carried out. Mark has followed this up again with Jonathan and Jane.

Outside Tap

The council has approved the installation of an outside tap providing it includes a non-return valve, which is not a problem. The materials have been obtained including a locking Tap-Safe box (£29.95) and a tap with NRV, through wall fitting plus isolation valve (£17.12) giving a total spend of £47.07. We may need a few more £'s for plastic fittings and insulation. Mark will try to arrange fitting within the next couple of weeks.

Tool Store

The repair to the Tool Store door has been fibre-glassed to make it more waterproof and now needs painting during a future task day.

3.5 Skatepark Development Project

Teen Shelter

After asking the Community Safety Unit to consider the removal of the teen shelter in January (and explaining that we had already discussed this with the Greenspace Team) and then chasing them each month for an answer, they now advise that they think it is best if we discuss this directly with the Greenspace Team!

New Perspex in Skatepark Notice Board

Mark asked the council if they can supply a new piece of Perspex for the board near the skatepark. Terry agreed he would fit if materials were provided. *(PMN: New Perspex has been fitted by the council, which is more excellent news.)*

Latest Skatepark Project News

Minutes of the last skatepark meeting held on 22 April were distributed with the agenda and are also appended to the end of these minutes. Highlights are:

Fund Raising Status

Money raised to date: £18,358
Money spent to date: £1,909 (Carnival Event)
Match funding available: £16,449 (against a target of £20,000)
Needed to reach target: £3,551

Jason collected a cheque for £250 from Romiley and Marple Lion and has donated another £50 as Recon Cycles, taking his total contribution to £160.

The collection of donations by Inkbox of Marple is ongoing until the end of May. Inkbox has also been selling Umbro football boots that have been donated to them.

Marple Business Forum had their AGM last week, so we should hear soon if they are able to support us on the skatepark project.

Marple Fire Fighters are holding an Open Day on Sunday 10 August and have invited us to join them. They will donate 30% of funds raised to the project, which is incredibly generous following on from their support they gave with the 10K run.

Marple Hall School has said that they will do something to raise funds next term.

Mark has written to local primary schools asking for a supporting letter and if they can do an art / writing project to support the skatepark. Rose Hill, St. Mary's, Ludworth and All Saints' have responded positively. No reply yet from Brabyns Preparatory School or Mellor School.

The design competition tender was issued on 16 April and closes on 13 June.

The skatepark team met with two skatepark companies last week and several more are due this week and the week after. We've included users in the meetings whenever possible and Marple Hall School will be attending two sessions this week.

With 6 months to go before the planned grant application submission to Veolia it is intended to submit a new initial enquiry to them in the next week or so.

3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Possible Silhouette Art Project

Steve Abbot has identified that the artwork of the soldier and poppies is not totally original – the figure has been copied from a well known WWI photograph, the copyright of which is with the Mary Evans Picture Library. Steve has made contact with them and we can purchase the rights to use it as reference material for the project for £30. It was agreed to go ahead and purchase the rights to use this.

Mark has found a local company that does laser cutting and has sent them an enquiry asking if they can provide ballpark costs.

As suggested last month, we would hope to develop a design that includes red poppies – maybe in ceramic, glass or enamel.

3.7 Park Cottage (Charles Ingham Bandroom)

The opening ceremony will take place next Sunday 18 May, when both bands will take part in a "Brass in the Park" style concert and the mayor will open the Bandroom.

We will help the Brass Bands tidy up the garden and hedges on Saturday 17 May.

3.8 Task Days

Last Task Day – 26 April 2014

Another good turnout of volunteers tackled maintenance of the flowerbeds, treated tree sculptures and cleared some of the cow parsley that is over-powering the other plants in the woodland behind the library.

Two new green wheelie bins were received from the council.

We've also held several ad-hoc task days with a good response at short notice.

Next Task Days – 17 and 31 May 2014

On 17 May we will tackle the park cottage and other tasks. On 31 May the main task will hopefully be installing the new picnic bench in the Infants Play Area.

Mark will send out parking requests and task day emails.

Special Task Day – Monday 18 August with Challenge Network

A special task day has been arranged with the Challenge Network, who will bring a team of up to 12 young volunteers with supervision to work with us in the park between 11am and 3.30pm. They will be covered by their own RA's and insurance.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2014

Registered: 17 & 31 May; 14 & 28 June 2014.

To register: 12 & 26 July; 16 & 30 August; 13 & 27 September; 25 October; 29 November & 27 December 2014.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days have been registered on the council's system until 30 June 2014 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures.

Risk Assessments / Training

Adrian, Bob, Lorraine, Joyce and Bernard have now attended the council Risk Assessment course taking the number of volunteers who can lead task days to 11.

Certificates were issued to attendees on the recent course and can be issued retrospectively to anyone who would like one. Micaela and Terry would like to have one. Mark will check with Patrick and Mick.

SSK Support for Task Days

No more news from the Greenspace Forum on this issue.

Mark has highlighted to Councillor Candler that as a group we are very pleased that Rob is currently allocated full time to Memorial Park and we hope that they will support this being a permanent arrangement.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Balance on last statement for 22 April 2014 is £17,616.83

Income since last meeting includes:

£9.60 Local Giving.
£1.44 Interest.
£250.00 Romiley and Marple Lions.
£50.00 Recon Cycles.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£54.08 Plants, netting, Mrs Fielding's plaque
£22.00 Plants order from Scouts.

Expenditure pending (not yet claimed back):

£47.07 Outside tap materials.
£2.90 SS washers and nuts for repair to War Memorial lectern.
£30.00 Licence for artwork.
£66.80 Flag to celebrate 10 years.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park Fund £16,424 and Flowerbeds (Mrs Fielding) £187, leaving a working balance of £709.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Bowling Green Steps

This is becoming a real eyesore and Mark has chased it up again with Jonathan Long. (PMN: Rob has been asked to do this now but he is on holiday for two weeks).

5.2 Sponsored Flowerbed Plaques

An engraved plaque has been ordered at a cost of £41. Terry has made a wooden base and metal stake. Mark will arrange for installation in the circular flowerbed.

5.3 Stump Grinding

Holes have now been filled with soil by Rob and will need topping up / levelling as the ground settles over time.

5.4 Oak Tree near Cinema

Two Montana clematis have been planted to grow up netting placed around the stump. The cinema owners have been informed about what we've done.

5.5 Marking 10 Years of Friends of Marple Memorial Park

A commemorative flag has been designed with the help of Arthur Procter and was sent to committee members for comment by email. This has now been ordered at a cost of £66.80 from Custom Flags.

Hopefully we can have a photo taken putting it up at the next task day.

5.6 Fund Raising Walk

Micaela wondered if it would be possible to have a walk similar to the Mellor March to raise funds for the park. She will look into this further.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 9 June 2014 at 6pm in Marple Library

Meeting dates scheduled for 2014 (library booked):

9 June, 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November and 8 December 2014.

**Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Tuesday 22 April 2014
Marple Library**

Present: Lewis Abbott (Skate Park User), Graham Clarke (Marple Vision Partnership), Richard Booker (Council), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: Jason Saenz, Ben Meek (Skate Park Users).

2.0 Fund Raising Status

Community Match Funding raised since the last meeting on 20 March:

£100 from Marple Health.

£263 from Sarah Morley's "Art from the Parks" exhibition.

£1,000 from The Marple Website advertising banners.

£250 from Romiley and Marple Lions.

£50 from Recon Cycles, taking total to £160.

This brings Community Funding figures at present to a total of £18,358 raised, less expenditure of £1,909 for our Marple Carnival Event in 2013, giving us a match funding pot of £16,449 against the target of £20,000 as of 22 April 2014.

The collection by Inkbox of Marple, on Market Street, is ongoing until 31st May and they are also selling some professional quality football boots donated by Umbro.

Marple Business Forum has said that their committee will consider making a contribution once they have set their budgets for the next financial year.

Marple Fire Fighters have said they may do a Car Wash in support later in the year.

Jason is continuing discussions with Moss Bank Housing Association and Simeon at Woodstock Pizza / Marple Tavern about a fun-day and a cycling event on the Middlewood Way to raise funds. Unfortunately Jason couldn't attend the meeting to give an update as he is not well.

It has been suggested that the cycling event could include security marking of bikes.

Graham to enquire with Ms. Canham if MHS has made any progress with ideas.

3.0 Letters of Support

New letters of support have been received from Sarah Morley and Marple Health.

Richard has followed up with Life Leisure (Marple Fitness Centre) but not the Exec Member yet.

Graham has followed up with Marple Hall School, Marple Vision Partnership and All Saints' School.

Mark will continue to seek as many others as possible.

4.0 Design Competition Tender

The Tender was published on The Chest on 16 April 2014.
Tender returns are due 13 June 2014.

Richard has informed our list of potential contractors and they have all responded positively apart from 1Skateparks, which has gone out of business and Gravity Parks, who don't feel that they can be competitive in the Northwest.

The tender has been publicised on-line, so may attract other companies too.

It was noted that the tender return date is key to us being able to display the designs at Marple Carnival on 21 June and it was agreed that this is very important to us for consultation purposes.

It has been arranged with Marple Carnival that we can have the same stall location as last year next to the skatepark.

Responses from tenderers regarding the first consultation meetings at the skatepark should start coming in soon. Most of us can be available during the week and the following dates based on Lewis's shifts will be ideal:

8th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th or 20th May. Richard will do his best to schedule to suit.

5.0 Veolia Application

Richard advised that initial enquiries to Veolia are valid for 6 months, so we should be OK to submit ours soon. Mark will prepare a first draft for circulation.

It was agreed that Friends of the Park would be the main applicant with the council as a key partner (who would receive funds and administer contracts).

Work also needs to start soon on the main application and supporting documents.

Richard cited an example where supporting documents were key to a project's success and we will need to focus in on the things that will help us.

Mark will endeavour to get back in touch with Marple College about developing the first-cut video, which has been on the back-burner for some time.

6.0 Other Items

Richard still needs to seek advice for Jason on applying to use the public highway / road closures for the potential cycling event at The Marple Tavern / Middlewood Way.

Richard will discuss the opportunities for modifying the existing lights again with Streetlighting as he doesn't feel they understood the request properly the first time.

8.0 Next Meeting

Thursday 8 May 2014 6.30pm at Marple Library.