

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 13 May 2019
Marple Library**

Present: Bob Wilson, Mick Thompson (part-time), Joyce Reed, Patrick O'Herlihy, Cllr. Malcolm Allan, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Micaela Wood , Terry Wood, Lorraine Thompson. Mick Thompson apologised for having to leave early due to another commitment.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting: Agreed.

3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA

We had been waiting for some time to learn the confirmed start date from Canvas / Greenspace. The options being considered were to start immediately after the Carnival and complete by the end of July, or, if that was not possible, to wait until after the school summer holidays to start. We have been advised today that the start has been revised to early September. A pre-construction meeting will be arranged for August.

Richard has advised that the MUGA programme timescale is 3 weeks. This would follow on from the Skatepark works completion.

3.2 Bowling Green and Buildings

Cracks in Bowling Hut gable end: Our request to get this work done before the start of the bowling season on 1st April was ignored. We have requested an update again and asked that we avoid the need to celebrate its 1st birthday in September. Cllr Allan was asked if he could put pressure on to get this overdue work completed.

Pavilion Art Project: Since the last meeting we have been approached by Tracy McGuinness-Kelly from Art Stop, who led the successful Intergenerational Art Project at Rose Hill Station. Mick and Mark have since met with Tracy at the park and in her studio at the Goyt Mill. We have also issued her a written brief. This includes the covered area of the pavilion and also the other side facing the Infants Play Area. Tracy is very enthused by the ideas and would like to make a grant application with us. We have issued some provisional information about the group's activities to Tracy but would like to provide a full "CV" in the near future to help her put an application together. We have also written to Greenspace seeking their support for our brief.

Cllr. Allan advised that fixing of the artwork was a technical challenge at Rose Hill and suggested this was covered early on with Tracy to avoid similar problems.

3.3 Park Benches

Park benches general: The Kay bench has been treated and others to start soon.

Town Centre benches: We've started to move the Marshall Shaw bench forward and a donation of £200 have been received from the family. The plaque has been ordered at a cost of £54.35 and was delivered today. We've submitted a task day application to cover the works this year and await approval by the Greenspace Team.

Policy for replacement of existing commemorative benches:

Notices are ongoing until October 2019. We have had contact from one donor family and two other interested families have been added to a waiting list.

3.4 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

Replacement of Midnight: Myers Tree Care has some sections of timber available and Mark will visit to see if any of these would be suitable for a new sculpture.

The existing stump is still awaiting removal by the council despite being promised for April. Anthony Crook is currently unable to advise when it will be done.

Info board near to Lock 10: Mark will look at creating replacement artwork as soon as time allows. Patrick has been working on cleaning and painting of the lecterns including this one. He highlighted that the existing coating is becoming a problem on some of them. It tends to lift off in sheets exposing rusty metal. It was agreed that we would remove as much of this as possible when refurbishing.

Painting of Pavilion Building: The old noticeboard was removed and a scrap man was contacted to take it away. We need to make some progress on painting as soon as we can so that we are in good shape for the possible art project. Sanding pads on poles were provided by Greenspace last year so we can sand the ceiling without steps.

Fitting out of Mess Room: We were recently approached by TLC Operatives about removing our lockers from the Mess Room to create more space. We are not able to do this unless we have alternative lockable space in the room, so we asked Wayne to obtain prices for re-fitting the room. We have received prices of £220+VAT to add a 1000 locking wall cupboard and £1,600+VAT for the same cupboard plus new base units and sink to re-layout the kitchen more efficiently into a single corner.

We are currently waiting for Greenspace to advise if there is any budget available to do this work. If there is not we will probably proceed with the wall cupboard ourselves using a B&Q unit or possibly a second hand one being given away.

It was also suggested by TLC that the old desk is taking up too much space and could be replaced by something smaller. By chance a suitable table and two chairs were sourced via social media free of charge. *(PMN: These are now installed.)*

Patrick asked if an extra shelf or cupboard could be added to the tool store too.

Breathing Places Reading Circle: The application to the Bardsley Fund to cover the resurfacing of the reading Circle was unsuccessful. It was agreed that we would allocate £1,000 of our existing funds to this and Mark will ask Wayne to engage with the contractor who quoted £938 to renew the edging in timber, widen the path to 1.2m, edge around the sculpture and resurface with a topping of 5mm to dust.

Terry has done some repairs to the base of the sculpture and has purchased some woodworm treatment (cost TBA). He will also be refitting the bird bath fixture.

Painting of Infants Play area fence: To be progressed later in year.

Possible refurbishment of Park Toilets: Scheme now on hold while the built area of the park is considered for the location of a new community centre / swimming pool, as described in the Marple Neighbourhood Plan and announced at Marple AC.

Fencing at Lock 12 entrance: Several volunteers worked with Wayne Bardsley to replace the rotten fence post and damaged railings at the canal entrance to the park on Friday 29 March. It was good to work with Wayne for the first time and the job was completed very successfully. All materials were provided by Greenspace.

Steps near library: Patrick has been painting hand-railings around the library but highlighted that the yellow safety paint on the steps is badly worn away. It was agreed to order some suitable paint. *(PMN: 2.5L ordered at a cost of £21.96)*

Brickwork walls between Asda and the park: These walls are in a very poor state with extensive frost damage to the brickwork. It is not clear whose responsibility this is. Patrick will share info he has about this and Cllr Allan will investigate further.

Possible Water Fountain / Bottle Station: Mark has spoken to Wayne about adding a Water Fountain/Bottle Filling Station in the park. A suitable location seems to be on the outside of the toilet block or the former bowling pavilion. Wayne has some info about equipment already and is going to share this with us to consider further.

3.5 Skatepark Development Project

Relocation of CCTV: Richard Booker asked TLC Security to quote for this back in February and also raised the request with the Public Protection Team. We have asked for an update on this a couple of times since without response. At the meeting we asked Cllr. Allan if he could please follow this up for us, hopefully with more success.

3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Announcements: Penultimate man's 100th anniversary is in October 2019.

Repairs to War Memorial: A lot of the grouting on the top section of the platform seems to have been damaged by frost. This was reported to Greenspace in January and they said they will take another look with the contractor when the weather is improved. We have sent a reminder that has been acknowledged and await news.

We have also suggested that some of the pointing to the walls needs more attention.

3.7 Task Days

Last Task Days – 30 March, 13 & 27 April and 11 May 2019:

Despite 16th March being rained off, we've held four main task days since the last meeting with a great deal of work being completed. Highlights over this time have been 3 sessions of "Little Growers" and the Treasure Hunt, as well as lots of work on flowerbeds, shrub beds, litter-picking and maintenance of fixtures and fittings.

Ad-hoc Task Days: Several, including 29 March when the canal fence was repaired, plus installation of racking in the store and extra work on the flowerbeds.

Next Task Days – 25 May and 8 June 2019:

Parking has been approved for May. Email reminders will be sent out when due.

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments:

Risk Assessments up-to-date and Task Days approved until 30 June 2019.

Scheduled Saturday Task Days in 2019: 25 May, 8 & 29 June, 13 & 27 July, 17 & 31 August, 14 & 28 September, 12 & 26 October, 9 & 30 November & 28 December.

Training: Awaiting new dates from Wayne Bardsley.

Tools / Power Tools:

Pullerbear: Arrived in UK on 8 May and presented to Customs and Excise on 9 May. It's likely that we will have to pay customs duty before it is released to us for delivery. (*PMN: Customs Duty was £38.45 and the Pullerbear was delivered on Friday 17 May*).

Lawn mower: A member of the Bowling Club has donated a petrol driven mower via Bernard. It has been checked out and works fine, although it doesn't cut very short.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

RBS bank account transfer: The switch of the RBS account to Santander is completed and a balance of £1,448.65 was transferred on 12 April. This included 57p interest and £42.75 refund from the council for a new tool store lock and keys. Prior to the transfer we received £190 of Treasure Hunt sponsorship into the RBS account. Since the transfer we have received a further £50 of sponsorship and we have also received the £750 switch payment. The balance at Santander is now £2,248.65.

The plan is that the Santander account will be used solely for the 50-50 Club.

Income since last meeting:

£2,090.00	Treasure Hunt sponsorship.
£179.16	Local Giving.
£30.00	Bandroom standing orders.

£113.09 Refund of birdboxes that were not in stock.
£14.99 Part refund from Jersey Plants (plants in poor condition).
£125.00 48 Kitchen and Bar Annual Sponsorship.
£200.00 Malcolm Marshall Shaw bench sponsorship.

Expenditure since last meeting:

£19.70 Plants, bulbs, seeds and compost.
£18.00 To replace broken Ragwort fork (tool now returned to council).
£53.96 Jersey Plants (£14.99 now refunded).
£3.58 Seasonal bedding.
£4.95 5 pairs of gloves.
£5.97 3 x rose bushes.
£14.13 Tool brackets.
£6.00 2 x hand-weeders.
£96.00 Local Giving annual fee.
£16.49 Additional order on Jersey Plants.
£54.35 SS plaque for M. Shaw bench.
£110.00 Face Painting at Treasure Hunt.

Current balances are:

£2,248.65 Santander.
£5,508.46 Barclays
£7,757.11 Total

Committed funds include £8 on an Acer, £3 on raffle tickets and £10 on Scouts Plants (*PMN: all paid from cash collected in park*) plus £1,000 allocated to the Reading Circle. So our working balance is £6,757.11 at present.

50-50 Club: Last week Mark shared proposals for the 50-50 Club with committee members, along with draft rules, draft mandate, draft welcome documents and the council's guidance on small society lotteries. Recipients were asked for any comments and objections to these plans. As there were no negative ones a poster was displayed during the Treasure Hunt on Saturday to start gathering public interest.

It was confirmed at the meeting that there were no objections to taking this scheme forward, and everyone was happy to adopt the draft rules and documents.

The next step will be to seek a licence from Stockport Council at a cost of £40 for the first year and £20 for future years. It is hoped to launch the scheme by September.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Social event on New Horizons

This was a great success and enjoyed by all. Although this was a free trip won as a prize in the Float the Boat draw, £50 was collected and donated to the charity.

5.2 Annual Treasure Hunt Saturday 11 May 2019

This year's event was a brilliant outcome. Di Jackson did an amazing job collecting sponsors. It looks like a total of £2,757 will have been raised after costs of £110 for the Face Painting, assuming the last few sponsorship payments are received.

The Coffee Bean Dream van and the face painting seemed to go down well, as did the Best Dressed Pirate Competition and the cake sale organised by Julian Wadden.

5.3 Little Growers

This year's event was held over 3 sessions and it was great that the library came to our aid for the last one and allowed us to come inside to avoid the bad weather. Hopefully children will bring back lots of plants to the park over the summer.

5.4 Lock 11 Visit

A second visit will take place next Monday with the Carnival Team and Greenspace.

5.5 AGM: 10 June 2019

It was confirmed that the next meeting will be the AGM.

Can everyone please attend.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 10 June 2019 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates have now been booked until June 2020.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2019/20 (library booked):

10 June 2019 AGM, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December, 13 January 2020, 10 February, 9 March, 13 April, 11 May, 8 June 2020.