

# Friends of Marple Memorial Park

## Minutes of Meeting

Marple Library, Thursday 9 May 2024



**Present:** Malcolm Allan, Micaela Wood, Joyce Reed, Phil Wiles, Helen Wiles, Larry Thompson, Mick Thompson, Diane Jackson

**1 Apologies:** Patrick O’Herlihy, Terry Wood

**2 Minutes of last Meeting (AGM April 2024):** Agreed

**3 Matters Arising:**

Goalposts: MA reported that TLC will take away old goalposts and put in new slots along with another set of slots in parallel plus a new set of moveable goalposts. Once in, we will be able to move them ourselves maybe each year.

We will need to put down fresh topsoil and re-seed the worn area where the old goalposts were located

MA suggested that we should ‘get the message out’ to the public in advance in case they think the goalposts are being completely removed.

Outdoor Exercise Equipment: Contractors due to complete and finish installation 18-25 May.

Community Hub: MA & MW met with Richard regarding saving/storing benches: Frog Garden bench; bench with plaque facing play park; will be saved and stored during works. 4 metal benches in playpark may be relocated and gifted bench by playpark will be retained but will require new metal piles afterwards. 4 Picnic benches to be replaced with new ones, possibly composite.

**4 Chairs Report:**

CCTV: MA reported Peter Cooke, SMBC was going to investigate vandalism to toilet block, possibly involving schools and police to pursue culprits.

TLC have sprayed weedkiller on edges etc despite instruction not to. Peter will discuss with TLC so this doesn’t happen again.

Also noted was that after a sunny Saturday in the Park there was a marked increase in litter with bins getting full, but no bin clearance on Sundays. Malcolm will look at ways to mitigate this with SMBC.

Jon Headlam inspected the men’s toilets with Malcolm and they agreed they are repaired and useable. Jon will contact TLC to check why they are still being left locked.

SMBC are recognising the value of ‘Park Groups’ in the Borough with an Award Scheme. Out of the 8 Awards being made, Marple Memorial Park has won 3. Mark Whittaker has been awarded the **Innovation**

### ACTION

TLC

SMBC/Volunteers

MA

MW to supervise

Richard SMBC

PC,  
SMBC

MA

JH

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**Award** for his outstanding achievements. 'The Friends' have won the **Achieving as a Team Award** and the **Working with Ambition Award**. Each Award comes with £100 to spend on the Park (£300 total). A great photo opportunity in the offing, to be arranged by Malcolm.

MA met with the Civic Society, along with a landscape gardener (one of our new volunteers), regarding the 'Greening Scheme' to discuss the plans for an extended woodland we have seen so far. The trees appear to be located in the wrong area, plus the type of trees is unclear. A meeting will be arranged with all interested parties.

Malcolm is to meet the Rotary about some possible sponsorship of this scheme.

MA commented that he had been looking back through the volunteer registration sheets from 2015 and noted that quite a number of volunteers had been working in the park for a long time. He asked whether we would want to instigate a 'Service Award Badge'. The Committee concurred.

### 5 Finance – Treasurers Report (see full report attached)

50/50 Club has now been closed – The Carnival are taking up this scheme. We can now change signatories on the Santander Account.

Status of Funds:

Barclays Bank Balance at 7 May 2024: £18,067.86

Santander Bank Balance at 7 May £10.00

Petty cash system now up and running with MA responsible for collecting money from the park bucket and reimbursing cost of refreshments.

DJ put forward for consideration finding sponsors to fund the refreshments.

### 6 Task Days

New Rota for Task Leaders and Refreshments working well. Some new volunteers and great turnout on both recent task days.

Note for new volunteers to wear long trousers because of possible tick bites to be added to next task day email.

### 7 Treasure Hunt 2024 Date decided on – Sat 29 June 10am – 2pm

Schedule for day needs compiling; map and clues, posters and publicity, side stalls (face painting, cake sale, etc?). Recruit volunteers for the day to help out.

Contact Nurture Nursery re sole sponsorship of event to cover costs.

Event Application and Risk Assessment for day needs submitting to SMBC

**Stall at Carnival** Decision is no stall this year

MA

SMBC/  
Civic Soc,  
MA

MA

DJ/MA

DJ

DJ/MA

DJ

MA

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### 8 Any Other Business:

Patrick asked for Committee to consider resurrecting the painting of town centre benches. Not much enthusiasm, but if Patrick wants to drive forward this there is no objection.

Maybe we could put a call out for volunteers to help with this specific task to see if anyone is interested.

MA to update the current Risk Assessment and car parking arrangements for task days and apply for further dates from 1<sup>st</sup> July.

#### Social Secretary

Micaela suggested an evening cruise on New Horizons – date to be arranged.

### 9 Next Meeting: Thursday 13 June 6pm Venue to be arranged

**Thereafter meetings will be held on the SECOND TUESDAY in the month at 6pm.**

PO'H/DJ

MA

MA/MW

MA



