

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 12th November 2007  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Adrian Ellis (Acting Chair), Peter Bardsley, Robert Wilson, Jay Havoleana, Micaela Wood, Bill Ardern, Mark Whittaker, Cllr. Andrew Bispham (part time).

**1.0 Apologies:** Rebecca Nedeljkovic, Chris Armitt, Dave Burrows.

**2.0 Minutes of the Last Meeting:**  
Agreed.

**3.0 Matters Arising.**

**3.1 BBC Breathing Places Reading Area  
Tree Work**

The Big Lottery Fund Project Officer has responded after reviewing the correspondence regarding the tree work and confirmed that they wish the project to continue.

Rebecca has confirmed that none of the tree work will be charged to the project. The BLF Project Officer has indicated that we may be able to spend the £1,000 in our budget for this on other areas of the project providing the details are agreed with them first.

It had been intended to use limbs from the tree pruning to form wildlife habitats but they were all shredded or removed. Adrian advised that it would be possible to source limbs from other local sites.

**Landscape Work**

Rebecca has released the hold on the landscape works and advised that it should start soon.

**Sculpture**

Work currently scheduled for December.

**Interpretation Board**

The artwork and ordering of the board will be done later in the project.

**Bird & Bat Boxes**

Mr. Griffiths of the High Peak RSPB group has not yet responded to the request for advice on placing of additional bird boxes. Mark will follow this up.

The group asked Adrian if he could arrange for a visit from Wayne Bardsley of Etherow Park to give advice on siting of the bat boxes and also the construction of wildlife habitats. The next task day on 24<sup>th</sup> November was felt to be a good opportunity if it was suitable for Wayne.

### **Hedge Packs**

Planting of hedgerows by the Beavers is confirmed for the 24<sup>th</sup> November Task Day. Linda Paton of Library Services may also be arranging a "Tree Party" event at the library to coincide with this.

A small amount of preparatory work is needed and Dave and Bob still need to discuss this. Mark asked Bob to make sure this was done in time for the event.

### **3.2 Teen Rotator**

Installation of the Teen Rotator has been completed and has been well received. In the longer term the group will consider trying to add more equipment in this area.

### **3.3 Basketball Court Fence**

Updated costs are still awaited from Rebecca on the basketball fence and associated works. Opportunities to fund this will be investigated once the Infants Play Area is finalised.

### **3.4 Beech Tree Sculpture**

Andrew Frost has now completed the ground sculptures at Brabyns Park depot and Adrian will be arranging for them to be stained and installed. He hopes that Playground Maintenance will assist with the installation and will discuss this with Gareth.

It was agreed that the sculptures could be brought up to the park for the task day on 24<sup>th</sup> November so that the group could review and agree the locations for installation.

Bob advised he had spoken to Andrew about the maintenance regime for the sculpture and it should be re-oiled at least once every 12 months.

Mark will chase up Andrew for his invoice so that it can be included in a completion report for the Voluntary Arts Grant. *(Post meeting note: Invoice received and a cheque for the outstanding £1,000 is on its way.)*

### **3.5 Lock 17 Flowerbed**

Mark has discussed progressing of the dedication plaque with Peter Clarke, who is in touch with the Mills family, and it has been concluded that it would be more sensitive to delay this for a while. It is felt that installation at the time of the spring replanting next year may be more appropriate and this will be kept under review.

### **3.6 Replica Memorial Stone**

The replica memorial stone was installed on the end gable of the shelter in good time to be unveiled in a ceremony immediately after the normal Remembrance Day service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November in front of a large audience.

Local War Memorials Trust representative Peter Clarke arranged the ceremony and the stone was unveiled by local lady Enid Wheeldon, whose uncle Sidney Proctor was one of the Marple men killed during the Great War.

Andy Cook, co-author of the book Remembered, spoke about why the shelter built by ex-servicemen in memory of their comrades is so special and the Rev. Chris Ambler blessed the memorial.

The group thanked everyone involved in making this happen, especially Peter and Andy for the ceremony and also Tony Donovan, who arranged the installation of the stone free of charge.

An invoice for £447 has been received for the stone and payment has been sent. This leaves a balance of £53 from the money donated by the Marple Website, which is earmarked to purchase interpretation panels for the sundial and the shuttle stone similar to the one already provided for the stocks.

### **3.7 Infants Play Area**

Removal of the bark chippings and the brick edging from the former boating pool has been completed by the Probation Service, saving approximately £2,500 against the original price. The group asked Adrian to pass on their thanks to the Probation Service for the work done.

One of the alternative prices received for installing the Playdale equipment was significantly lower than Playdale's own price, so an order has been placed with Groundwork Landscapes.

Rebecca has confirmed that the order is as per the most recent Playdale scheme and includes the playhouse, roofs on the climbing unit, the boating pool graphics and the larger roundabout instead of wavy or musical panels.

Adrian and Bob attended a pre-start meeting with Rebecca and the contractor on 7<sup>th</sup> November. Adrian advised that if Playdale are able to provide the equipment within the 6 weeks promised then the installation could be completed before the end of December, however, a January completion may be more realistic due to the Christmas break.

As a result of the lower price the cost of the play scheme, including fees, is almost covered by the council's contribution from the Borough-wide play equipment fund. This means that the £1,000 to be donated by the Marple Website and the £1,000 raised by the Friends (likely to be around £1,500 by Christmas) can be spent on replacing the 3 benches, table and seats.

Mark will bring catalogues to the next meeting for the group to select suitable equipment.

In addition the lower price will free up most of the £4,752 commuted sum that was allocated to the project. Mark has broached the subject of spending this in the park on other play or sport related items with Rebecca, who has discussed it with David Brayshay. The initial response to this has been very positive.

Nothing has been heard from Brabyns Preparatory School about the outcome of their sponsored bounce yet but it is hoped we will learn about this soon.

### **3.8 Boules Court.**

Dave Burrows has discussed the boules court proposals with Vanessa Brook and the details have been passed on to Sylvia Lawman, one of Rebecca's colleagues, to prepare an estimate.

It is hoped to have further details for the next meeting.

### **3.9 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Day – 27 October**

There was a reasonable turnout for the tree-planting event. 17 people attending during the day and the trees were soon planted near Garth Road and in the wildlife area running down from the cinema to the canal.

Jacky Budd has initiated an invoice for £100 to cover the cost of the trees and once this is received a report to the Woodland Trust will need to be prepared to close the project out.

The YOT did not turn up on the day. Brian Pendlebury has sent his apologies with an explanation of the reasons why.

#### **Next Task Day – 24 November**

The main activity will be the Hedgerow planting in the Breathing Places woodland area by the Beavers. There will also be bulbs to plant, the siting of the ground sculptures to review and possibly a visit from Wayne Bardsley to discuss bat boxes and wildlife habitats.

#### **December Task Day**

This was discussed and in view of the fundraising activities already taking place during December it was agreed that the group deserved a "holiday" until the first task day of the New Year on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **War Memorial Flowerbeds**

Adrian needs to speak to Dave Burrows to discuss the proposed scheme before preparing a layout drawing and will do this as soon as practical.

### **Car parking during task days**

Cllr. Alexander has asked for further information about numbers, dates and times for the task days, which Mark has provided, and is still trying to make long-term arrangements for free task day parking.

Adrian advised that Wayne Bardsley does have a working scheme for volunteers at Etherow Park involving special passes and suggested that Dave Burrows might be able to speak to him about how this was arranged.

### **3.10 Fundraising Activities**

#### **Christmas Cracker – 1<sup>st</sup> December**

We will have two stalls provided for us on Derby Way. They will be similar to those at the Food Festival so will need the same set up.

The event is due to run from 10am to 4pm. Mark will pass on full details of access arrangements and times once available.

#### **Winter Wonderland – 8<sup>th</sup> December**

We will be sited in the car park opposite the Royal Scot and will use the Marple Website's two gazebos, so the set up will be more like on carnival day and we will need tables for the tombola.

This event is set to run from 1pm to 4pm, and once again Mark will pass on access arrangements and times once received.

It is hoped to arrange lighting at both events.

#### **3.11 Park Cottage**

No news at the meeting. *(Post meeting note: Adrian has checked with Tony Donovan and he is going to chase up the builder for the quote on the cottage refurbishment and then let us know how he will proceed.)*

#### **3.12 Park maintenance activities**

The teen shelter has been painted and much of the other work progressed. Adrian will check with Tony when the Infant's Play Area fencing is planned to be painted. *(Post meeting note: Tony Donovan has advised this will be done in April next year.)*

#### **3.14 Status of Funds**

Current bank balance:	£10,467	
<b>Committed Funds:</b>	£9,457	
Breathing Places		£6,945
Tree Sculpture		£1,358
Sundial & Shuttle panels		£53
Tree Planting Event		£100
Raised for Play Area		£1001
Working balance:	£1,009	

Income since the last meeting includes £50 in interest, £20 donated Football Competition prize and £2 commission on Marple Wine Club sales. Outgoings were £447 for the memorial stone.

#### **4.0 Monthly Park Report**

Bob advised that general maintenance was continuing with painting of seats, top dressing to the Bowling Green etc. Clearing of bedding plants was also discussed and it was agreed that beds should be cleared and left fallow if new plants were not available.

#### **4.1 Students misusing the play equipment**

Bob advised that the situation had improved a little as a result of the teen rotator attracting some of the students to the skate park area but it was not enough to keep them all occupied. If more new equipment can be added later it would make this area even more attractive to them.

Bob advised that there has been no change in the level of support from the Community Police and their presence in the park was virtually non-existent. The group asked Adrian to speak to Dave Burrows about raising this at the Police Forum, as suggested at a previous meeting.

#### **5.0 Any Other Business**

##### **5.1 Friends' Christmas Dinner**

Micaela confirmed the Ring o' Bells booking for 16 at 7pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November. £5 deposits have been paid leaving a balance of £6.95 per head to pay on the night, plus own drinks.

##### **5.2 Marple Cinema Fund Raising Event**

Micaela recently attended a showing of the Sound of Music at Marple Cinema to raise funds for the Mellor Rose Queen charities. She has made initial enquiries about organising a similar event for the Friends Group and received a positive response from Mr. Lillis, who run the cinema. It was agreed that this is a great idea and Micaela will make further enquiries about the arrangements that would need to be made.

#### **6.0 Date of next Meeting**

Monday 17 December 2007 at **6pm** in Marple Library.

#### **List of reminders:**

Write to Wyevale Garden Centre regarding sponsorship.  
Spring task – jest wash and oil the log bench.