

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 11 November 2019
Marple Library**

Present: Joyce Reed, Mick Thompson, Patrick O'Herlihy, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Diane Jackson, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Bob Wilson, Lorraine Thompson, Cllr Malcolm Allan.

1.1 Minutes of last meeting: Agreed.

2.0 50-50 Club Draw for October 2019:

By the end of October numbers 1 – 71 were registered but 8 of these (27, 33, 51, 62, 64, 67, 68 & 69) 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: £79 - No. 044 Malcolm Allan.
- 2nd Prize: £47 - No. 031 Diane Jackson.
- 3rd Prize: £31 - No. 057 Adam Edwards.

Total income was £315 with £157 in prizes and £158 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.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA

We are still waiting for Canvas to respond to Richard's queries / requests submitted at the beginning of October. Richard and Mark have both chased these up over the last week. Richard is on leave this week and we are expecting that information will be available by the time he is back on 19 November. Items awaited are: Programme of works; Revised cost / bill of works; Risk Assessment / Methodology; Confirmation on track / matting requirements. *(Post Meeting Note: Information is still outstanding and is currently promised for Thursday 28 November 2019).*

Relocation of CCTV Camera: The council are currently waiting for TLC to confirm timing for the relocation of the camera. *(PMN: scheduled for Thursday 28 November.)*

The large trees have had further work done and new trees have been planted.

Cllr. Allan has now met with the resident who raised concerns about ASB at Marple Area Committee. Mark has asked Cllr. Allan if he could summarise the outcome of this for the group – it seems the resident is happy with some aspects but not others.

Complaints Policy: To be drafted and issued for review prior to the next meeting.

3.2 Bowling Green and Buildings

Pavilion Art Project: Mick and Mark met with Tracy and Pete in their studio at the Goyt Mill on Friday. We went through the brief, budgets and application details and this was very productive. We need to finalise a few details and Mark has arranged to meet with Friends of Rose Hill Station to seek their advice and learning from their own project. We have asked Greenspace to obtain prices for a disabled-access hard-standing in front of the brick wall section so that people will be able to view the artwork. *(Post Meeting Note: The meeting with FoRHS revealed some issues that need further discussion. Wayne is currently making enquiries to confirm if planning permission would be required and also seeking the agreement of Property Services. Discussions with Tracy are on hold pending the outcome of Wayne's investigations.)*

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. *(PMN: Now subject to outcome of enquiry above.)*

Fitting out of Mess Room: The order for the kitchen refit is awaiting approval.

The request for the over-door heater to replace the wall heater was put through to Property Services by phone and email but they had no record of it when Wayne followed it up, so he's done it again. It should go through as a H&S issue.

We 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

The proposal for this is taking shape. A meeting is arranged with Tree Sculptor Mike Burgess and Wayne Chaisty tomorrow to look at the logs at Chadkirk. Anne-Louise has contacted schools and is gathering responses, which have been positive so far.

3.4 Wild-flower Meadow / Lock 11 Compound

Wayne has agreed that preparation for the meadow will be mechanical only but has warned that by not spraying dominant grasses may come through and reduce the effectiveness of the wild-flower meadow mix seeding – we have accepted this. The work will be done when weather allows, probably in the spring of next year now.

It has also been agreed that meadow preparation will only be needed on the bottom two-thirds of the area, consequently the costs have reduced to £400.

We began removing stones, filling, raking, and re-seeding the top third of the area, which will remain as grass, during the last task day. We need some extra soil to complete this and have asked Greenspace if they can provide four 1Te bags of topsoil so that we can do this and put the rest on the flowerbeds.

3.5 Possible Play Area Improvements

Richard is still trying to close out his existing projects, so needs a bit more time before he can look further at our proposal for combining the play areas.

We did visit Heaton Park to look at the water play feature that uses rainwater but it was broken. Not very encouraging considering the age of this new facility.

Ground level trampolines did look very popular and we would will consider these in our plans. There are some in other Stockport parks and we will take a look at them.

Pirate Ship in Infants Play Area: New drumsticks have been ordered for the Pirate Ship on approximately 6 weeks delivery. They should be fitted as soon as they arrive.

3.6 Benches

Park benches general: Maintenance is pretty much finished for this year with just a couple of minor touching up and repairs needed. We have added a "Chat Bench" sign to one of the benches overlooking the Bowling Green. Stockport Express has been in touch about this. *(PMN: a small article appeared in the 13 November issue.)*

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

Danny Winter bench: We are just awaiting an invoice from the council for the work done. This will be £651.50, which is less than the original quote of £741.

Policy for replacement of existing commemorative benches:

Action is with Mark to write to Anthony Crook to confirm. *(PMN: sent 28 November.)*

3.7 Park Buildings and General Infrastructure

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

Breathing Places Reading Circle: Resurfacing work was done recently but Wayne identified several snags – he went back to TLC and they have now resolved the issues. So all complete at last and we now await the invoice for £984.92.

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, as described in the Marple Neighbourhood Plan and announced at Marple AC.

Possible Water Fountain / Bottle Station: (no change)

Unfortunately there has been no time to pursue this further yet. We have supply and fit costs to install on the outside wall of the gents' toilets in the park as follows:

Option 1: £789+VAT for the combined drinking fountain / bottle filler unit.

Option 2: £1,015+VAT for the separate drinking fountain and bottle filler units.

These prices are within our budget and we would like to go ahead. However, as explained in some detail at previous meetings, the council has raised lots of issues and concerns and they are not supportive at the moment.

Cllr. Allan has been trying to get information from Bury Council on how they managed to overcome such issues but so far has only received generic links to news articles that we have already seen and are not of much help.

Mark has managed to obtain some information from the Regional Rep of Refill.org that maybe more helpful, although it doesn't cover everything. He would now like to talk with Cllr. Allan to consider the best way forward to make progress on this project.

3.8 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Announcements: The final man, John Hampson, is due to be announced on 23 November, the 100th anniversary of his death. Then project will be fully completed, apart from any maintenance work that the timeline may require from time-to-time.

Remembrance: Preparation went very well, with lots of work by our volunteers and also by TLC's Operatives to cut the grass and clear leaves. As a result the park was looking its very best despite poor weather. Mark has written to TLC Team Leaders asking them to pass on our thanks to their Operatives for working so well with us.

There was an issue with the services normally provided by the council to put out / remove the memorial chains and lower / raise the flag during the last post. The council asked if we were prepared to do these tasks but we declined, believing that we do enough and these tasks have traditionally been done by the council for many years. The council then made alternative arrangements with the event's Master of Ceremonies, who dealt with the memorial chains. The flag was not lowered.

Wreaths: The group's wreath was laid by Terry. All wreaths were also fixed on the day by us and TLC have been asked to leave for us to remove at end January 2020.

Street Poppies: These were fixed to lampposts on behalf of the Poppy Appeal.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Days – 26 October, 6, 8 & 9 November 2019:

Unfortunately the 26 October task day was rained off so we held two additional ad-hoc task days on 6th and 8th November, plus the planned one on 9th November, in order to ensure the park was ready for the Remembrance Service on Sunday.

We were joined by a second DofE student on 9th and a third one is expected next time.

Ad-hoc Task Days: See above.

Next Task Days – 30 November 2019:

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

Hopefully we will have soil to spread on flowerbeds from Greenspace.

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: 30 November & 28 December.

Training: Awaiting new dates from Wayne Bardsley.

Tools / Power Tools: No change.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Current balances Barclays: £11,054.50 + Santander: £1,2620.00 = £12,314.50.

Committed funds are £984.82 for the Reading Circle, £651.50 for Setts in front of Danny Winter's bench, £2,500 ring-fenced for the Skatepark, £400 for Wild-flower Meadow preparation, £250 for new trees, plus £662 advance payments / reserves in the 50-50 Club account. Leaving a working balance of £6,866.

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

Income to Barclays A/C since the last meeting:

£128.00 September 50-50 Club Draw.
£154.00 Local Giving.
£15.00 Brass Bands of Marple (Garden Maintenance).
£1,000.00 CRT for wild-flower meadow / trees.

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

£245.00 50-50 Club payments during October.
£25.00 50-50 Club payments during November.
£85.00 50-50 Club advanced payments.

Expenditure from Barclays A/C since the last meeting:

£0.00 Nil.

Expenditure from Santander A/C since the last meeting:

£64.00 October 1st Prize (banked).
£38.00 October 2nd Prize (banked).
£25.00 October 3rd Prize (not yet banked)
£128.00 Transferred to Barclays Account.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 St Martin's Christmas Tree Festival

We are going ahead with this. Gill and Di have been looking at printed baubles. A trial set-up is to be organised and the set-up at the church is on Thursday 5th December.

5.2 Marple College adoption of flowerbed

Eileen, the tutor from Marple College, has met with Gill to discuss plants and seeds suitable for growing at the college ready for the bed and she is going ahead with this with her special needs students, who have visited the bed recently.

Planting is currently "on hold" as the bed is in the path of the access required for the skatepark phase II works. This has been explained and once it is clear when the works will be finished we will need to liaise with the college.

5.3 Possible Christmas Crafts "bring and buy"

Di and Gill have been thinking about doing this if they can make the time.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 9 December 2019 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

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

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