

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 11 October 2021
Marple Library**

Present: Joyce Reed, Mick Thompson, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Diane Jackson, Gill Whittaker, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Lorraine Thompson, Patrick O'Herlihy, Bob Wilson, Cllr Malcolm Allan.

1.1 Minutes of last meeting 9 March 2020: Agreed.

1.2 Note for Record 28 February 2021 in lieu of 2020 AGM: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising:

This is the first full formal meeting since March 2020. Special meetings were conducted each month throughout the pandemic to make the 50-50 Club Draws.

We caught-up with progress, or lack of, since March 2020 as follows:

3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA

The skatepark phase II and MUGA works were successfully completed during the summer and autumn months of 2020, despite lockdowns and the pandemic.

Repairs to some of the older features were also completed, plus tarmacking of the rubber-mulched area near to the Poppy feature. This was part-funded by a donation of £500 from the Vernon Building Society, the balance being paid for by SMBC.

After much lobbying the council installed an extra litter bin at the skatepark too.

Relocation of CCTV Camera: Prior to lockdown, instead of following clear instruction and moving the pan and tilt camera to its new location, the installation team fitted a lower-spec non-pan and tilt zoom camera in the position of an existing old static one. They didn't tell anyone they were doing something different to what was instructed and paid for by Marple Area Committee. Mark and Cllr Allan were scheduled to attend a demo of that camera at the Control Room on Tuesday 17 March 2020 but this was cancelled by the Security Operations Manager due to Covid19.

Video clips from each camera were instead sent for review. Following review Mark responded on behalf of the group asking for the original camera to be relocated, as first requested in December 2017 and followed up repeatedly since then. The camera was eventually relocated to the agreed position in November 2020.

Since that time we have been asking for a demo of the cameras and the opportunity to have input to the cycle of operation, as we did when the camera was installed in its original position overlooking the bowling green. We were shown video clips of the cycle instead but these were considered unsatisfactory and we continued to request a review of the operating cycle on a regular basis. This has still not happened and is now being chased up on our behalf by Councillor Allan.

In recent times the camera has failed to pick-up a motorbike on the skatepark or vandalism to the flowerbeds, despite times and dates being provided, clearly demonstrating to us that the camera cycle urgently needs to be reviewed.

Graffiti removal requested: March 2020 graffiti removal requests were completed but this has become a regular activity, particularly when graffiti is offensive.

Early in 2020 we passed on a recommendation from Canvas to the council for **Graffiti Removal Ltd**, who provide special materials and training for the easy removal of graffiti from concrete and brickwork. We suspect nothing has happened with this.

Repainting of vertical surfaces: The council has provided tins of the green and grey paint used on the skatepark vertical surfaces and repainting these has become a regular task for us. We also plan to look at ways of repainting the patterned surfaces.

Recently racist graffiti was applied to the back of the quarter pipe. This was photographed and reported to the council and police before being painted over by us.

Painting over Library graffiti: This has been necessary a number of times since March 2020. Back then we asked to be provided with a tin of the correct colour paint so that we could do it and save the council time and money. We continue to ask on a regular basis without a satisfactory answer to why this can't be done.

3.2 Bowling Green and Buildings

Pavilion Art Project: In March 2020 we asked Tracy and Pete from Art Stop to look at splitting the project into two phases. They did this and we successfully applied for a grant of £1,500 from the Macnair Trust towards the phase I stage of the project, which was to add artwork roundels to the back of the former bowling pavilion.

Art Stop successfully managed the Roundels Artwork Project for us throughout lockdown, working in innovative ways to interact with community artists, and we successfully completed the project in June 2021 despite lockdowns and the covid19 pandemic. We consider this a huge success and are very grateful to Art Stop CIC.

Marple Area Committee kindly funded the hard-standing in front of the display with £775 from their delegated budget and we are very grateful for their support too.

Total Phase I project costs (excluding the hard-standing) were:

2020: £2,175 + 2021: £2,189 = Total: **£4,364**

Funded by **£1,500** from the Macnair Trust and **£2,864** Friends of the Park Funds.

There were a few extras included in the above figures that were signed-off by Mick and Mark as we progressed through the project:

- £70 to extend the height of the boards by approximately 6".
- £140 for extra special varnish.
- £26 for public liability insurance during installation.
- £175 for new Posca Pens for Tracy to use during school visits.

Phase II Pavilion Art Project

It is proposed that Phase II, under the former bowling green canopy, will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the park's dedication next year.

It is also proposed to use the photos from the park's dedication on 22nd July 1922 as a basis and inspiration for the artwork. The artwork will still need to be done in such a way as to be visible from across the park and we will pass the material to Tracy and Pete at Art Stop CIC to consider and prepare ideas and budgets.

Subject to the cost, we may be able to afford this ourselves or we may need to seek additional funding from external sources and suitable grants.

It was agreed to proceed on this basis and review when we know more.

Painting of Pavilion Building: Will be done in conjunction with above.

Fitting out of Mess Room: After regaining access to the Mess Room recently we discovered that installation of the new heater above the door to replace the wall mounted one that we first raised as a health and safety issue way back in August 2019 has still not been done. This is despite it being flagged up repeatedly by us to the council as dangerous and promises that it would be done urgently. It was raised

long before Covid19 and is an appalling failure by Property Maintenance.

We raised the issue once again on 19 September and have since been advised that a visit has taken place to measure up and materials have been ordered.

On Friday 8 October we conducted a deep clean of the mess room prior to using it for the first time since before the first lockdown. During our task day on Saturday 9 October we fitted a paper towel dispenser and microwave support brackets that we purchased just before the start of the Covid19 pandemic.

The outside tap was vandalised during installation of the Pavilion Art Project boards and a temporary arrangement has been set-up inside the building that needs a hose to be run outside. The connection is protected by double-isolation but a long-term outside tap replacement is needed before regular watering begins next year.

3.3 Proposed Sculpture Trail Project

The oak logs were delivered to Brabyns Depot for storage just before lockdown but during a later visit it was found that there were only four in the yard, rather than the seven expected. Dave Myers advised that all logs that were at Chadkirk have been delivered, so three of them must have gone missing from there.

Our last funding application at Christmas 2019 was unsuccessful and in view of the amount of interaction with schools that was proposed, and also the missing logs, it was agreed to mothball this project at least for the immediate future.

3.4 Wild-flower Meadow / Lock 11 Compound

The wildflower meadow was impacted by Covid19 and the preparation work done in March 2020 had to be repeated in the autumn of 2020 and the seed then sown. The meadow has not been as successful as we'd hoped and no Yellow Rattle grew at all. Research suggests that Yellow Rattle seeds does not survive for long and it is likely that with the seed mix originally coming from the Canal and River Trust in 2019 followed by the Covid delays has resulted in a lot of the seed failing to take.

The meadow needs to be mowed soon, the cuttings left for seed to drop and then cleared later. The council has said they will do the cut for us soon. We then need to look at clearing it with rakes and barrows for the council to take away. It would then be possible to sow new Yellow Rattle seed this autumn or plugs in the spring next year but it is very expensive (£185 for 500g and 72p per plug).

(Post Meeting Note: The meadow has been mown but most of the cuttings appear to have been removed. We need to give further thought to what we will do next.)

The trees and some of the whips planted to fill the gap in the woodland have taken well, with only one tree being lost. Mark has met with Anthony Crook and he will be arranging a replacement as part of the winter tree-planting season.

3.5 Play Area Improvements

Significant improvement to the play areas is on hold pending development of the "Community Hub" scheme, which now includes new play areas. We are very pleased about that, however, as we have no idea how long this will take or if it will happen, then we cannot let the existing areas and equipment decay and decline too far.

Fencing repairs: The fence around the Infants Play Area has been in poor condition for some years and sections of it were kicked over by vandals during lockdown.

With the support of Cllr Allan we managed to persuade the council to replace the damaged sections with new fencing and replacement slats. They've made a really good job of it and we also now have a supply of spare slats in case of new gaps.

Picnic bench tops: Patrick saw some interesting laminated tops for picnic benches in another park and suggested that they may be suitable for ours. Mark looked into this and found some great laminate covers for only £78 each. After clearing it with the council an order was placed for two to go on the Infants Play Area benches.

One is a play town scene and the other is a graphical map of the solar system and they have arrived today. Mark and Terry will get together to look at installation.

New springers: We recently lost another springer in the Infants Play Area to breakage and we are now down to the last one of three originals. Mark has discussed this with Richard Booker and we have asked for three new springers to be purchased and installed. We have also asked for the cost to be shared equally between the council (from commuted sums) and Friends of the Park.

The cost for 2 springers + new carpet overlay is £2,850. As we have asked for three then it will be more and is still to be confirmed. Our share is likely to be around £1,750, which we can fund from our 50-50 Club income and community donations.

(Post Meeting Note: Richard has confirmed that an order has been placed for three Massey and Harris "Mini-beast" springers with a lead time of 8 to 10 weeks. He is checking on the cost of the carpet before confirming the total costs to us.)

Monkey bars replaced: The monkey bars were removed from the Junior Play Area during lockdown due to wear and tear and were missing for some time. They have recently been replaced with new bars, which is good news as they are very popular.

New gates and pirate ship drumsticks: The gates to the Infants Play Area have recently been replaced and another new set of drumsticks fitted to the pirate ship.

3.6 Potential "Community Hub" Park Development

We first learned of this potential scheme to replace the swimming pool, library and possibly other existing community buildings with a brand new development in the park during confidential discussions with the council's architect in January 2019.

We later attended the council's first consultation with local community groups in Marple Library on 12 March 2020, just prior to the first lockdown. One of our key suggestions was that the scheme should include the provision of a new play area.

We were asked to provide further information in April 2020 and submitted extensive comments and questions, plus information about our ongoing and future projects.

In October 2020 some of us took part in an online review of the provisional scheme and various options via a Zoom meeting with the the council and their architects. During this review we vetoed certain suggested locations in the park and also asked why the open area adjacent to Station Road had not been considered. We were pleased to learn our suggestion to include new play areas had been taken on board.

In January 2021 we took part in the wider public consultation on the scheme.

In March 2021 we wrote to Peter Ashworth and local councillors asking for careful consideration to be given to an alternative location using the site of the existing play areas and some of the open land adjacent to Station Road. We explained that we were eager for this to be properly explored and discussed with us as we considered that it provided solutions to many potential issues, including destruction of the woodland behind the library; proximity to neighbouring properties and access issues.

Our suggestions and ideas were acknowledged in March 2021 and we were told that they would be fed into options with a view to developing a workable scheme.

Since then we have heard nothing, so on 3rd October we wrote to Peter again expressing our dissatisfaction in the lack of feedback and discussion with us and asked if this could please be remedied. We received an encouraging reply the following day

explaining that the council has been struggling to finalise agreement of non-council partners involvement in the scheme and commitment to then assemble a funding package to bring forward a more finalised scheme.

Peter acknowledged the issues around losing the woodland, proximity to neighbours and transport and access issues and confirmed that they will consider our suggestions and will engage with us as key stakeholders prior to wider public engagement.

3.7 Benches in Park & Town Centre

Park benches general: Patrick has continued to lead bench maintenance and he has largely caught up the delays caused by the pandemic.

New Park Benches: Mark has agreed locations for 10 new park benches with Anthony Crook and now needs to work through the waiting list and offer places to those families who have been waiting the longest first.

Bench near Boules Court: A new base funded by Marple Area Committee's Delegated Budget was installed during lockdown. Thanks to them for their support.

Town Centre Benches: We have caught up with the year lost on re-treatment of the town centre benches, with the last ones being completed in time for the Food and Drink Festival. Mick thanked Gill and Mark for their efforts on this, which was done on an ad-hoc basis due to the weather and social distancing.

Next year we hope to clean down and repaint the metalwork on the benches too and Cllr Allan has found several shops that are prepared to give us access to a tap so we can get water for cleaning and rinsing down paintwork.

3.8 Park Buildings and General Infrastructure

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

Painting of Infants Play area fence: On hold pending Play Area developments.

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.

Possible Water Fountain / Bottle Station: On hold as above.

Tarmac tripping hazards on main path: Resurfacing funded by Marple Area Committee's Delegated Budget was completed during lockdown.

Litter bins: One new bin has been installed at the skatepark. The bin at the Garth Road entrance has been taken away due to being knocked over and is due to be refitted. The bin near the band room also needs to be re-fixed. Two new double-bins have also been scheduled to be installed on the main path, one opposite Oldknow's Shuttle Stone and the other opposite the Coronation Bench. These installations have been overdue for some time and Cllr Allan is chasing them up for us.

(Post Meeting Note: The above bins have now all been installed. The Garth Rd bin has been replaced by one near the Lock 10 entrance, which is the same general area.)

Drainage: There have been repeated problems with the drains in the park over the last couple of years – they have been getting blocked every time there was heavy rain and sewage leaking out onto the grass in front of the woodland behind the library.

We have repeatedly requested a proper investigation rather than just the quick fix each time they get blocked. This has at last been done and we have recently been advised that the fault is on shared drainage that is the responsibility of United Utilities. It is frustrating that this would not have been discovered if we had not continued pressing to get the problem sorted out. The council say they have now passed the problem onto UU and we will continue to monitor.

Rats in the park: There are always rats in the park but over the pandemic sightings have increased considerably, both from members of the public and ourselves.

The council has now baited the traps in the waste bins and hopefully the infestation will begin to decline. (*Post Meeting Note: Environmental Health are due to visit again for further baiting of traps on Wednesday 20 October 2021.*)

Sculpture behind the library: During lockdown the sculpture behind the library broke due to rot in the base. We recovered the broken sections and the Arb Team kindly cut the rot off to create three separate free-standing sculptures.

We had planned to have bases made to allow us to reinstall them but this was expensive and when we discovered that they were infested with woodworm we decided to dispose of them. Despite warning of the woodworm, we achieved this using the Marple Thrift Group on Facebook and raised £95 in donations via Local Giving.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Days 2020 to date:

2020 began as normal with an enforced interlude from March to July. Despite the pandemic we managed to hold 12 formal task days during the year with 468 COVID compliant volunteer hours spent working in the park. In 2021 we didn't get started until April but have so far managed 20 formal task days totalling 527 volunteer hours.

The first lockdown in 2020 saw park maintenance fall seriously behind but thanks to small groups of volunteers doing their own thing as part of their daily exercise we managed to avert disaster and we are now generally back on top of things.

There is a full record of our formal task days on our new website.

Future Task Days:

Our scheduling of task days has been ad-hoc and restricted to existing volunteers during the pandemic and will continue that way for the rest of 2021. Hopefully we'll get back to normal and also reopen our task days to new volunteers in 2022.

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments:

All paperwork is updated and approved. Task Days in the park and activities in the Town Centre are currently approved until the end of 2021.

Scheduled Task Days in 2021: Ad-hoc, look out for emails.

Training: Nothing to report, we are lucky to have several volunteers trained up.

Tools / Power Tools: A battery powered strimmer was purchased during lockdown.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

The McInnes Partnership audited the group's accounts for 2019 and these were covered by the Note For The Record in lieu of our 2020 AGM. The accounts for 2020 have also been audited by McInnes and are ready for the 2021 AGM.

Copies of the 2020 accounts were passed round and an update given as follows:

4.1 Main Bank Account (Barclays): Balance = £18,339.

Income in 2021 to date: £6,218.43; **Expenditure:** £3,302.33

Income highlights in 2021:

£2,438.00	50-50 Club Draw income.
£1,000.00	Donation from Marple Festival organisers.
£843.00	Local Giving.
£294.00	Collected in Park.
£277.00	Handmade card sales.

£250.00	Marple Beer Run.
£250.00	Collection boxes in local shops.
£200.00	Marple Stationery Supplies donation (2021 Calendar).
£200.00	Donation covering new plaque on bench.
£200.00	Private donation.
£150.00	Marple Band Room garden maintenance payments.
£100.72	Kevin Dowling book royalties (donated by Kevin's wife).

We now have collection boxes in The Vernon BS, Shop Local Marple News, Your Local Shop and Benji's Pet Foods and Accessories and we thank them for their support.

Expenditure highlights in 2021:

£2,189.00	Pavilion Art Project (Phase I).
£500.00	Contribution to Skatepark Tarmac.
£222.00	Tools and materials.
£156.00	Picnic Table Tops.
£100.00	New plaque for bench.
£96.00	Local Giving annual fee.
£39.00	Plants and seeds.

Committed future spends:

Circa £1,500 to £2,000 on new springers.

Circa £3,500 to £4,100 on Pavilion Art Project Phase II.

Proposal for future spends:

With play area improvements, toilet refurbishment and water fountain on hold pending Community Hub Development, Mark suggested we should look into providing exercise equipment in the park. This is something that has been on our wish-list for a long time but previous grant funding applications have been unsuccessful.

Costs are likely to be a minimum of £10,000 upwards. We have done really well with our fund-raising over lockdown and could afford to make a significant contribution towards this. It was agreed that Mark should speak to Richard Booker about developing a suitable scheme and identifying costs and location options that would not be compromised by the potential Community Hub Development in the park.

Another suggestion was Crazy Golf. After discussion it was felt this would be more suitable for inclusion in the Community Hub Development if it goes ahead. So we will raise this during the next opportunity to consult on the Community Hub scheme.

4.2 Friends of Marple Memorial Park 50-50 Club

The 50-50 Club has been a huge success for us, especially during lockdown, when most other fund-raising schemes and many other organisations have struggled.

To date the 50-50 Club has raised £4,969 for the Park Fund and awarded £4,957 in prizes, with a further income of £781 in prizes being donated back to the park.

We have 87 subscriptions but with 3 dropped out and one paying quarterly. It would be great if we could get to 100 subscribers and we need to look at ways to do this.

Latest 50-50 Club Draw:

The September 2021 draw was made on 6 October. For this draw 87 subscriptions were registered with three (22, 41, 60) not paid-up. The draw was made using a random no. generator App by Chairman and Treasurer in front of two witnesses.

Winners were:

- 1st Prize: £105 - No. 070 Liz Galloway.
- 2nd Prize: £63 - No. 015 Catherine Redfern.
- 3rd Prize: £42 - No. 087 Jonathan Templar (P).

Total income was £420 with £210 in prizes and £210 allocated to Park Funds.

Banking arrangements for the 50-50 Club account permit a single authorised signature or payments via BACS and throughout the pandemic most prizes have been paid via BACS for the convenience of ourselves and the winners.

Publicising of when winners donate their prizes back to the park was discussed. A concern was raised that by publicising this we may make others winners feel obliged to do the same. While this is not the intent, it was acknowledged that it may happen. However, it was felt that in order to remain open and transparent about any income we receive it was essential to record this and also to thank donors of winnings.

(PMN: Catherine Redfern has kindly donated her 2nd prize of £63 this month.)

Next Draw: The October draw will be made between 1st and 8th November.

4.3 Fraudulent transactions on 50-50 Club account

Mark reported that unfortunately we've had two fraudulent transactions on the 50-50 Club account. It is believed that these stem from the account name, sort code and account number being available on the web site for subscribers to set-up their own standing orders to pay in. The background to these incidents are as follows:

In 2020 a direct debit for £15.12 was set-up by Virgin Media for someone's mobile phone account. The DD was spotted immediately and was recovered via the bank straight away. An enquiry was made to Virgin Media asking why this had occurred – was it a mistake or was it fraudulent use of our information? Repeated enquiries went round and round in circles without Virgin Media providing any explanation as to why this happened. A complaint was submitted to the Ombudsman and Virgin Media replied to them that they could not provide an answer to us due to data protection. The Ombudsman upheld this reply and we got nowhere with it even after appealing and explaining that we were not after names, just how / why it had occurred.

The second occurrence was in 2021 and was a Direct Debit of £49.99 set-up by someone purchasing an annual online magazine subscription. The DD was set-up via a company called Bauer Media, who were much more helpful than Virgin Media and advised that the address used was in Leicester. As soon as the DD was spotted a refund was requested and implemented via the bank and we got our money back.

During the dialogue with Bauer they told us that it is not possible for them to check all the details of the Direct Debit set-up – like validating the name and address of the account holders – they said this was up to the bank to check. They also offered to refund the money taken. We explained that we had already received a refund and did not need the money back from them but they went ahead anyway. We contacted Bauer offering to return the money but they didn't reply, so we are currently in credit by £49.99. We asked the bank about the checks and they claimed that this was the responsibility of the company setting up the DD, so they each blame the other.

The bank account details have been removed from the web site and will be provided to new subscribers after sign-up, hopefully preventing this from happening again.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Ride of Remembrance

Kevin Murray and the Marple Poppy Appeal Team are organising for 100 motorbikes to

ride from Compstall to the park on Sunday 24 October to deliver 100 Street Poppies that will be added to the Wall of Remembrance on the Bowling Green fence.

We hope to support this with a few volunteers attending in the park to pick litter before and after and to empty the bins if needed. Mick and Terry can attend.

5.2 Wreath and Remembrance Service

The 100th anniversary of the Poppy Appeal was discussed. It was proposed and agreed to donate £100 for our wreath this year in commemoration of this.

(PMN: We were unsure if there was to be a Remembrance Service this year but have since heard that the new minister at St. Martin's is organising it, which is good news.)

5.3 Street lights in the park

The lights along the drive and main path into the park are currently not working. ENW is due to start work on repairs 15 October and finish by 22 October 2021.

5.4 Antisocial behaviour in the park

There has been significant ASB in the park and around Marple this year, with a series of assaults and vandalism. Local councillors have been dealing with Police and local authority officers and we have made it clear that resolving ASB is not the responsibility of a volunteer community group. Mark asked Cllr Steve Gribbon for an update before the meeting and he has advised that there is an increased Police presence in the park and there has been a decline in the number of incidents reported to him. Hopefully the winter will bring a greater decline in this activity.

(Post Meeting Note: On Monday 18 October we learned that there had been an attempted break-in to the former Bowling Pavilion store. The double doors have been badly damaged but not breached. This has been reported to the council and Police.)

5.5 Marple School Gardens Competition

A lady called Sarah Braide has approached us about a Primary School Gardens Competition in the park based on the Tatton Show School Gardens scheme.

Mark has met with Sarah and Jon Headlam to discuss and support this. It is envisaged that the gardens would be 3m x 3m raised beds located on the flat area in front of the war memorial. The beds would probably be built after the carnival and judging would be on Saturday 23 July 2022, linking in with the 100th anniversary of the park.

We would be able to repurpose any materials used on new projects in the park.

The group was very enthusiastic about Sarah's idea, see more below.

5.6 100th Anniversary of the park's dedication

It will be 100 years since the park was created on 22 July 1922. This falls on a Friday and we are keen to commemorate this historic and important anniversary.

It is proposed to link it with the Gardens Competition noted above, with the judging taking place on Saturday 23 July. It was also suggested that the 2022 Treasure Hunt could be held on the same day, as it appeals to largely the same primary school audience and could help make for a really great day in the park.

Mark has asked the Marple Bands to reserve the dates of 23 and 24 July 2022 and the provisional idea is to hold a Party in the Park concert similar to the one the bands held a few years ago in front of the war memorial, which was a great success.

The Pavilion Art Project Phase II will also tie in nicely with the dedication theme.

Marple Carnival Committee has agreed to feature the anniversary of the park with a banner and balloons on 18 June, which would help promote the events in July too.

5.7 One Stockport Marple Frog

The opportunity to express an interest in purchasing the One Stockport Marple Frog that has been displayed on Market Street throughout the summer was shared by Cllr. Aron Thornley over the weekend. The cost was advertised as a £750 donation to St. Ann's Hospice, so after a quick phone around of committee members it was agreed to express our interest in bringing the Frog to Memorial Park. This was submitted by email on Sunday 10 October and acknowledged by the council today.

We mentioned our expression of interest on social media and earlier today Maria Danson from the M'Indies Group (the local shops who paid for the Frog to be sited on Market Street) got in touch to say that she had been liaising with the council over the details for keeping the Frog in Marple and it was great that FoMMP were interested.

Maria said she had been told there was a £170+VAT delivery cost, plus an upkeep agreement that has to be signed and also a need for public liability insurance. None of this was mentioned in the invitation to express an interest in buying the Frog.

It was our view that the public liability insurance should be covered by the council's own PLI policy, as is normal for every project we have ever done in the park before, which would be a big advantage. Mark has submitted an enquiry to the council to check but they appear to have been confused and though we were asking about insurance against damage and repair. Mark has reiterated that we are only asking about PL insurance and maintenance and repairs would be our responsibility. Hopefully this will be satisfactory and we can go ahead if our expression is successful.

With regard to the unexpected delivery charge, we may be able to secure this funding from elsewhere or maybe arrange collection free of charge by a local business.

(PMN: The council has replied again regarding the public liability insurance and there does appear to be some kind of issue over this that we do not currently understand. They are saying that we will need our own PLI for the Frog and, what is more, they seem to be saying that this will apply to our future projects in the park too. The situation is currently very confusing and we have expressed our concerns to Cllr. Malcolm Allan. This appears to be a potential show-stopper for ongoing and future projects undertaken by Friends of Marple Memorial Park and is very worrying.)

5.8 St Martin's Christmas Tree Festival

We've received an invitation to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival held in St. Martin's Church, which is returning this year but with limited numbers. For personal reasons Gill will be unable to commit to doing it. After discussion it was agreed that we wouldn't take part this year but would hope to do so again in 2022.

6.0 Next Meeting

Scheduled for Monday 8 November 2021 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2021 (library booked):

8 November and 13 December 2021. Dates in 2022 awaiting the library's new diary.