

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 8th September 2008
Marple Library**

Present: Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Dave Burrows, Sandra Ellis, Peter Bardsley, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Bill Ardern, Jay Havoleana, Chris Armitt.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 BBC Breathing Places Reading Area

Breathing Places Launch

Linda Paton has arranged for a family launch event on Saturday 13th September. There will be face painting from 1.30pm and a Storyteller will tell tales and lead a quest to find silver leaves and solve riddles. The Friends will take a gazebo and displays to support the event and to publicise the wildflower-planting day in October.

Interpretation

Mark will develop a design for the interpretation based on the existing boards and the project's aims and achievements. The interpretation needs to be in place before the end of December as no more extensions to the project completion date are possible.

Planting of Wildflowers (BBC "Do One Thing" Event)

Jacky Budd has confirmed that the wildflowers will be available for the event on 25 October 2008. It will take place between 10am and 1pm.

Posters are now in the park notice boards and copies can be distributed to local shops and venues. There is a good opportunity to publicise it at the Food Festival too.

Mark asked Dave if the Parks Team could provide a good attendance to support this in anticipation of a large turnout. Dave asked Bob to discuss with Adrian and let him know if this would be a problem.

Outstanding Expenditure

Remaining expenditure on the project is £580 for the Wildflowers to be planted in October and £1,000 for the Interpretation.

Project Completion

The project deadline for completion has been extended twice and is now December 2008. A completion report will be required when all the work is finished.

3.2 Basketball Court Fence

Rebecca has developed a new scheme with the contractor that features an opening and a slope down to the teen shelter area instead of a complicated chicane arrangement. Copies of the scheme were passed round and discussed and the group approved this.

The cost is £5,963.45. The good news is that Rebecca has confirmed that there is £5,530.40 in the commuted sums that could be used for this, subject to Area Committee approval. This would leave a balance of £433, which the Friends Group could raise relatively easily.

The Area Committee will meet to decide the use of the commuted sums on 20 October and the Basketball Fence has been put forward for this. Hopefully it will be approved as it meets the criteria to assist with children's play, the young park users want it and the Friends Group supports it.

Bob mentioned that he has had a number of enquiries about this recently from the kids using the basketball court and hopefully we will have some good news for them in October.

3.3 Beech Tree Sculpture

The ground sculptures were sanded and oiled at the last task day. Further coats are needed and another one will be applied during the next task day.

Following the initial success of sanding and applying anti-fungicide to the main tree sculpture the coating of fungus is returning with a vengeance again and spoiling its appearance. It is now also starting to become ingrained in some of the fine detail of the carving. Dave will discuss it with Henry Campbell-Ricketts to try and find someone with the knowledge of how best to deal with this problem.

3.4 Infants Play Area

Replacement Graphics

There is no new information on when the replacement graphics will be applied. Rebecca was expecting the old graphics to have been removed while she was on holiday but this has not happened and she will be chasing the contractor up now that she is back at work.

Playground Sign and sculptures

Andrew Frost has been un-contactable for a while. Mark has recently received a text advising that the sign had been cut to the wrong size and he will have to start again but both the sign and the replacement apple will be ready soon. The delivery dates suggested in the text have come and gone, so Mark will try to maintain a dialog with Andrew in the hope that they will eventually be completed and delivered.

3.5 Boules Court.

Tournament

The Fun Boules Tournament held on 30 August was a successful and enjoyable event with surprisingly good attendance of between 20 and 30 people, from 1pm until around 5pm. Everyone seemed to have a good time and a number of positive comments have been received.

Compaction

Mark advised that he has now discussed the surface with a number of people with experience of other courts and the consensus is that it needs further compaction. After discussing a number of options Dave agreed to pay for the hire of a 'wacker' for a couple of days and asked Bob to organise this and proceed with the work.

Commemorative Seating

The situation remains as reported last month, with Marple Civic Society having confirmed that they would like to donate £750 to cover the cost of a commemorative seat and two offers from private individuals to purchase memorial seats. Another private individual has provisionally offered to donate £250 towards the project.

There is no further feedback from Patrick regarding how he has fared in seeking funds from Marple Business Forum, The Rotary, Senior Citizens or the District Partnership but he has said he is attending a meeting on Wednesday and there may be more news after this.

Rebecca has provided details of a number of alternative seating suppliers. Mark will review these and discuss the details with Dave if any of them are preferred to the seats provided by David Ogilvie Ltd.

Boules for "Hire"

Two sets of Boules have been purchased for £5 each and are now with Bob for loaning to park users. Posters have been placed in the notice boards explaining that they are available free of charge. A £10 deposit for each set is to be taken to cover the eventuality that they are lost or damaged and need to be replaced.

The Boules sets were paid for out of a donation of £43 from winners of the Football Competition that Mark organises at work, with the balance of £33 being paid into the Friends' bank account.

Interpretation

An interpretation board of similar design to the existing ones that would explain the history of Pétanque, the rules of the game and how the court was funded is proposed. It will also advise about the Boules sets available from Bob. This may be a suitable use for the private donation of £250 (subject to their agreement) but approximately £750 more would be needed before this could proceed.

3.6 War Memorial

The War Memorial has been cleaned and it looks much better. The group thanked Dave for arranging it in time for the International Merchant Navy Day ceremony on Sunday.

Mark is still waiting for the paperwork from Peter explaining how to request listing of the War Memorial and shelter. (*Post meeting note: now received.*)

There are still no details from Jacky Budd regarding the War Memorial flowerbed scheme. Bob will chase up again.

The group will lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service as usual. Micaela will confirm with Terry if he would still like to do this on behalf of the Friends as he expressed an interest last year.

3.7 Task Days

Last Day – 30 August

The tree sculptures were sanded and oiled, flowerbeds weeded and the Boules Court was rolled. In the afternoon the Boules Tournament was held, as already described.

The YOT attended for the last time. They now have new regular commitments each Saturday and Brian Pendlebury has advised that they will no longer be able to come. The group recorded their thanks for the help that the YOT have given over the last 18 months.

Next Task Day – 27 September

The ground sculptures will be oiled again and there should be plenty of other tasks to do.

Mark will not be able to attend as he will be on a Stockport Art Gallery photography course but will still submit the list of registrations for free parking and send out the email notification of the task day event.

3.8 Bird Survey

Nothing to report.

3.9 Gap in fence near Garth Road

Dave advised that repairs to the fence would be placed on the winter programme of work.

3.9 Park Cottage

No new information but there is a meeting between Marple Band representatives and Stockport Council to discuss funding this evening, which hopefully means that things are moving in the right direction.

4.0 Status of Funds

Income since last month is £43 from the Football Competition donation with £10 of that being used to purchase two sets of Boules and the balance of £33 being paid into the bank. Expenditure in the period is £1,800 on the Breathing Places sculpture.

Current bank balance:	£5,547	
Committed Funds:	£4,910	
Breathing Places		£1,503
Boules Court		£2,869
Sundial & Shuttle panels		£53
Working balance:	£637	

4.1 Fundraising Activities

Food Festival – 20 September

Details of the stall have been received. We are in nearly the same spot as last time and have a single gazebo provided by the organisers. We will need two tables for the tombola and one for the Marple Website.

Set up to commence around 7.30am - 8am and the event is due to end at 4pm. Micaela would like to go to the Vernon Park event during the day and Sandra volunteered herself and Adrian to help out on the afternoon.

A letter has been written to local businesses and Micaela is receiving a good response from the majority of them for help with tombola prizes. Micaela will provide Mark with a list of the businesses that have donated prizes for display on the stall and on the web site after the event.

Christmas Cracker – 6 December

Mark has confirmed to the organisers that we would like to attend. Further details are awaited.

Ring o' Bells Quiz Nights - 17 December 2008 & 7 January 2009

These dates are now confirmed.

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob advised that he would be conducting guided walks during the Vernon Park celebrations on Saturday 20 September.

Bob also advised that Hazel Grove Gardening Club would be helping with work in the park.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Coronation Bench

Mark has had his extension leads PAT tested and is hoping to meet Wayne Chaisty in the park on Friday 19 September to carry out repairs to the Coronation Bench.

(Post Meeting Note: The repairs were completed on 19 September and an invoice for £45 is awaited from Wayne.)

6.2 Brightening up of Bowling Green Building

Micaela proposed painting the Bowling Green hut darker green and other improvements to its appearance. Dave is not sure if a change in colour is permitted and will look into this.

Bob also advise that the door to the Bowling Green hut is still a problem and asked Dave to take it further with Tony Donovan.

6.3 Lock 17 Plaque

Mark advised that a cast bronze memorial plaque for Gordon Mills has now been ordered and delivery is expected within 6 weeks. A copy of the design was passed round.

6.4 Park Leaflet

Dave understood that there was some kind of change with regard to producing a new park leaflet but he was unsure of the details. He will check and advise at the next meeting.

7.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 13th October 2008 at 6pm in Marple Library.

List of reminders:

Outdoor Fitness Equipment (sources of funding).

Lock 17 raise stonework in September?

Park leaflet update.

Letter to Wyevale.

Spring job – repaint Coronation Bench.