

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 9th September 2013
Marple Library**

Present: Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Micaela Wood, Joyce Reed, Patrick O’Herlihy, Gill Whittaker, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Anne Frazer, Mick & Lorraine Thompson.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Diamond Jubilee Project

Display Panel

Invoice for £748.04 has now been received and paid. This includes recovery of the postage costs of £11.96 to return the broken frame to Shelley Signs.

Bob has tried removing the spots of white paint on the display panel left by the council’s painting contractor without success. Mark will email Jonathan Long to find out if there is anything else that can be tried.

Future Planting

24 Stocks Brompton plugs have arrived and Gill has potted them on. Balance of the Van Meuwen order of plugs and bulbs is due before the end of September. The “Monarda Mix” of 24 plants ordered from Express Readers Offers is still outstanding because Parkers are waiting for supplies. They will need to be chased up again.

Some of the Polyanthus have been moved to the borders alongside the pathway to the Breathing Places area and to the small bed in the Infants Play Area.

More Polys will need to be moved in September. Bob suggested that the bed between the Scout Hut and Senior Citizens’ Hall would be a good location for some of them and he will see if he can do some preparatory work to the area.

Planting budget available is £538.

3.2 Park Benches

Picnic Benches on the Recreation Ground

All work is now completed and invoices have been paid.

Refurbishment / replacement of benches

Patrick has sanded and treated the two picnic benches outside of the Infants Play Area. He asked Terry to have a look at the best way of re-anchoring these two benches to the ground because they are becoming loose and in need of repair.

The existing Infants Play Area bench needs treating – this will be done during a quiet period because it’s very well used by families during peak times and weekends.

It was agreed that there is room for a second picnic bench inside the Infants Play Area and Terry will proceed with making one as a winter project at the David Lewis Centre.

The non-toxic water-based paint stripper was not very successful on the first Boules Court bench so, after trying it, Patrick and Terry sanded the first of them instead. This gave much better results and the other two will be tackled the same way. Patrick plans to do the next one on 14 September, during the Food and Drink Day.

Gladys Romm's family have confirmed that they want to supply a new plaque but nothing has been received yet. We will fit this if it arrives but will not chase any more. The Ian Rice bench and the Alan Procter seat still need to be tackled.

The Coronation Bench needs to be sanded and repainted.

Patrick will seek business sponsors for the refurbishment of the three concrete framed benches along the main pathway by the Bowling Green hedge. The cost will be £200 each for new hardwood and plaque and will allow the existing plaques to be retained.

3.3 Karcher Equipment

Anne is considering purchasing the Aldi Jet Wash from the group because it is now surplus to requirements after us winning the Karcher Clean-Up prizes.

3.4 Infants Play Area Fence

Painting of the Infants Play Area fence still needs to be finished if weather allows.

3.5 Treatment of Sculptures

Midnight the Owl sculpture has been treated for woodworm with 5 litres of Cuprinol 5 Star Wood Treatment at a cost of £44. Patrick has treated the Apple and Pear, the sculpture behind the library and the nature posts, so we are currently up-to-date.

3.6 Skate Park

A skatepark meeting was held on 5 September 2013 and the minutes are appended to these. In summary, the latest information is:

Fund Raising Status

Money Raised to date: £7,809

Money Spent to date: £1,909

Match-funding available: £5,900 (against a target of £20,000)

The need for an independent contribution of 10% (approx £10,000) to the Veolia Trust in the event of a successful grant bid has been highlighted to Marple Area Committee with a request that they take this into account when allocating current and future commuted sums eligible for use in Marple Memorial Park.

The Marple 10k was a great success. Details of funds raised for the skatepark by Marple Firefighters and by Stockport Homes runners and tombola is still awaited and is not included in the figures above. Stockport Homes has donated left-over tombola prizes to the group for the Food and Drink Day next weekend.

A revised Co-Op application has been submitted requesting up to £2,000 match-funding towards the project. Mark has also written to the Co-Op manager Peter Dewsnip asking for his support, which he has indicated he will give.

An application has been made to a scheme called Wish and Chips, where donations are collected from local fish and chip shops. It is not very clear when we will hear back on this – probably within 2 or 3 months.

An application to the Equity Foundation has recently been made requesting up to £4,000 match-funding. This was reviewed by their panel on 5 September but was not successful. Formal feedback is awaited from the panel explaining why.

We have written to GMP for support and they have responded positively with contact from the local PCSOs. We are waiting for details of any funding that may be available and the necessary application forms from PCSO Wendy Warburton.

Jason Saenz of Recon Cycle Repairs & Sales (Marple) is sharing his profits with the project and has donated a further £30, taking his total contribution to £55 so far.

Marple Food and Drink Festival

Stall location is still to be confirmed. *(Post meeting note: outside Paul Howard).*

Micaela advised that most of the tombola preparations were complete with final prizes to collect and tickets to sort out. She will provide a list of contributors for the stall.

Local residents Mr and Mrs King are donating sweets to fill the Guess the Sweets jar.

Early starters Micaela, Terry, Mark, Gill, Joyce, Ian, Lewis and Jason will meet up at 7.45am, Anne, Mick, Lorraine and Neil will be coming along to help out later.

Bag Packing Events

Stockport Homes have arranged two bag packing events, one at Marple Co-Op on Saturday 12 October and another at Morrisons in Bredbury on Saturday 19 October. These could be quite lucrative if well attended but we need lots of support.

They will be advertised in the park notice boards and Mark will write to local schools to try and get the events in their newsletters sent home to parents.

Easyfundraising.co.uk – On-line Fundraising

£35 has been raised to date and is due to pay out at the end of September. Although there are 6 supporters registered so far the money has only been raised by one of these and Mark asked others to remember to go through the site if they placed any orders on-line with qualifying suppliers.

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/marplememorialpark>

Promotional Videos

The first cut of the video is on-line: <http://youtu.be/Ceml3O6i-s>

This will be developed with the college once they are back.

Possible Interviews with Pure Radio

Three of the skatepark users have agreed to be interviewed by Pure Radio if this can be arranged and Mark has passed their details on to Anne.

3.7 World War I Centenary Commemorations

War Memorial "Rose Wall" Hedge

Most of the roses continue to do well and the temporary barriers have now been removed. Replacements for 15 of the roses that didn't grow have been arranged for delivery from the supplier in November.

We may be able to apply for funds to cover this from SMBC, who has a small budget for WWI related projects. An application form is awaited from the council.

Commemorative Iron Railings

Prices have been firmed up with Luke Lister. An Expression of Interest has been submitted to the HLF World War One scheme but they have said that the project would fail if it included a WWII element, as ours does at the moment. They've suggested a different scheme and emphasised the importance of activities and people outcomes. So we need to give further consideration to funding options and strategies.

Ludworth School Project

Mark has received a call from the council asking if we were aware of a project in the park proposed by Alan Chin at Ludworth School, which we were not. Terry agreed to speak to Alan, who he knows through the Carnival Committee.

(Post meeting note: Alan has forwarded some emails with their project ideas and will attend our next meeting on 14 October to tell us more of the details.)

3.8 Park Cottage

Work on the extension to the cottage is expected to start in the near future.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Days – 17 & 31 August

Two task days have been held since the last meeting with borders to the Breathing Places pathway being widened, Polyanthus being transplanted to the Infants Play Area and behind the library, woodworm treatment to the Owl Sculpture, Recreation Ground benches being finished, park benches and picnic benches being treated, pruning of ivy from the toilet block, shrub bed and flowerbed maintenance. The barriers have also been removed from around the War Memorial beds and the beds themselves weeded.

Marple Allotment Association members were in attendance at the last task day and they expressed an interest in extending the size of their bed for next year. Mark has approached Jonathan Long about this and a meeting has been arranged between the Allotment members and Jane Bardsley of Greenspace. *(Post meeting note: the addition of a second bed alongside the existing one has been agreed with Jane. There needs to be a set dimension of 2.5m between the beds to allow for mowing.)*

Nest Task Days - Saturday 28 September

Next normal task day is Saturday 28 September, when we hope to tackle replanting of the Jubilee Bed and possibly some painting in the Infants Play Area.

Mark will send out parking requests and task day emails.

Micaela suggested a new formal group photo be taken. *(Post meeting note: Arthur Procter will to come and take a group photo on 28 September at the task day.)*

Remaining Task Day Dates for 2013

28 September; 26 October; 30 November; 28 December 2013.

3.10 Risk Assessments / Task Day Registration

Task Days up to and including end of March 2014 are now registered and approved on the Council web site. 2014 registered dates are:

25 January, 22 February and 29 March.

All necessary Risk Assessments have been submitted to SMBC.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Balance on last statement for 22 August 2013 was £7,157.91.

Income since last meeting is £30 from Recon Cycle Repairs & Sales.

Expenditure since last meeting is £748 on Jubilee Display Panel, £20 on Storage Boxes for tombola prizes (Micaela) and £27 on paint stripper and various bolts used on bench restorations (Patrick).

Committed funds in account are: Jubilee Project (plants) £538; Skate Park Fund £4,900 (plus £1,000 due from Carnival in October) leaving a working balance of £567.

Around £35 raised by easyfundraising.com is not yet included in figures.

The next 3 Quiz Nights at the Ring o' Bells will raise funds for the skatepark.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Bowling Green Steps

Richard Booker has advised that the work to break out the steps and extend the grass banking has been agreed and an order has been sent to the contractor. The work should be carried out in the near future.

5.2 International Merchant Navy Day

The "Red Duster" flag was flown in the park to commemorate IMND on 3 September.

5.3 Remembrance Service 2013

Terry will lay the wreath at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 10 November.

5.4 Carnival Presentation Evening

The presentation evening is on Friday 11 October when we are due to receive a cheque for £1,000. Mark and Gill will attend and there are places for two others.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 14 October 2013 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2013 (library booked):

14 October, 11 November, 9 December 2013.

Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Thursday 5 September 2013
Marple Library

Present: Lewis Abbott, Ben Meek, Jason Saenz (Skate Park Users),
Graham Clarke (Marple Vision Partnership), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: Henry Broadhead, Mattias Svensson, James Sandoe (Skate Park Users), Craig Silcock (All Saints Youth Worker) Richard Booker (Council)

2.0 Fund Raising Status

- All Saints' Church – ongoing – **Craig** hopes to arrange a contribution.
- House on the Hill – **Mark** will make initial contact by email.

The first Co-Op application for event funding has been withdrawn and a revised application asking for a contribution toward match funding has been submitted. A copy has also been sent to the Co-Op Manager with a letter asking for his support. Graham has since spoken to him on the phone and he is supportive of the project. The local Co-Op Panel will review the application in October.

An application has been made to a scheme called "Wish and Chips". This is a charity that collects for local causes in Fish and Chip Shops. It is not clear exactly when decisions about this scheme are to be made but we may hear in a month or two.

An application for match-funding has been submitted to the Equity Foundation. This is due to be reviewed by panel today and we should learn the results tomorrow. *(Post meeting note: application was not successful – feedback and comments are awaited).*

Mark is now in contact with the Rotary about the possibility of using / supporting their Christmas Float. Ben has a vehicle with a tow bar, as does Patrick, one of the Friends volunteers, which should allow us to share the load. More details are awaited.

Inspector Palmer at GMP has responded positively to our letter requesting support and his team are now in touch through PCSO Wendy Warburton. Wendy has spoken to Inspector Palmer about funding and will update us in due course with the relevant forms if there is any funding available.

Mark has still to write to the new Marple Business Forum Chair.

Jason gave a further £30 donation from his start-up business Recon-Cycle Repairs and Sales (Marple) and has now given a total of £55. The group thanked him for this.

Total funding raised (5 September) is £7,809 with expenditure of £1,909 leaving a balance of £5,900 match funding against the target of £20,000. £4,900 is banked with £1,000 awarded by Marple Carnival Committee to be received in October 2013.

The need for an independent contribution of 10% (approx £10,000) to the Veolia Trust in the event of a successful grant bid has been highlighted to Marple Area Committee with a request that they take this into account when allocating current and future commuted sums eligible for use in Marple Memorial Park. Ongoing.

The question was raised as to whether it would be worthwhile for Friends of the Park to become a registered charity. **Mark** will investigate.

Marple 10k Trail Run – Saturday 7 September

Marple Firefighters are going to donate 20% of the proceeds of this year's Marple 10k to the skate park project. They've had more applications than before at this stage, so things are looking promising. Stockport Homes have 10 runners taking part in support of the skate park and will also be running a tombola stall at the finish line.

We have a stall at the finish - meet at 10am at the Social Forces Club to get set up.

(Post meeting note: Weather was good and the day was a great success. Stockport Homes has advised that they raised £309 for the skate park and will let us have it once it is all collected in. We are waiting to learn how the Firefighters fared.)

Marple Food and Drink Day – Saturday 14 September

We will have a tombola stall and guess the sweets competition as we did last year. We will need help on the stall throughout the day. *(Post meeting note: Our stall is number 33 outside Alan Kennington / Paul Howard shops – meet there at 7.45am).*

Bag Packing at Marple Co-Op – Saturday 12 October

Stockport Homes have helped us to arrange a Bag Packing Event at Marple Co-Op on Saturday 12 October 2013 10am – 4pm. We need as many volunteers to help as possible, including younger users, preferably with their parents in attendance.

Everyone to look at ways to get people involved, including Facebook, email lists etc.

Jason will talk to All Saints' School and PTA about helping with the project.

Graham will try getting in touch with Kirsty Pierce at Marple Hall.

Mark will email local schools and registered supporters.

There is also a Bag Pack arranged at Morrison's in Bredbury in November but we can focus on this after the October one. *(Post meeting note: Morrison's has brought the date forward to Saturday 19 October 2013 10am – 4pm, so we need to recruit for this at the same time as the Co-Op one now.)*

Skate Park Design

We need to agree how to move this forward at a meeting with Richard.

Jason suggested a "road-trip" might be an option to go out and visit other skate parks with users to investigate what works well at other locations.

Promotional Videos

Mark & Richard now need to get in touch with the college to move this forward.

The Stockport College students' video was delayed due to availability of staff to support the editing. **Mark** will chase up to see what is happening.

Pure Radio

Lewis, Ben and Jason agreed to be interviewed by Pure Radio if the station is interested in doing a feature about the project. **Mark** will pass details onto Anne.

Any Other Business

Lewis still to get in touch with Rick at All Things Nice.

Bones in Stockport is rumoured to have been taken over by the council. Is there any way that they can help us?

***Post meeting note:** Ring o'Bells Quiz Nights for next 3 weeks will be for the skate park. Please tell all you friends and maybe enter a team!*

Dates: Thursdays 19 & 26 September and 3 October 2013.

Next Meeting: To be arranged.