

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 14th September 2015
Marple Library**

Present: Joyce Reed, Patrick O'Herlihy, Terry Wood, Lorraine Thompson, Mick Thompson, Bob Wilson, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Micaela Wood.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour Logs

ASB logs submitted since the last meeting and distributed with the agenda include:

- More activity / misuse of the Infants Play Area (3 incidents reported and Gill also spoke to a group of youths in there after the task day on Saturday).
- Ongoing collection of drug packets and paraphernalia.

The situation does seem to have improved significantly since the installation of the camera and signs, although judging from litter some activity appears to have migrated to around the library. We are not aware of any damage or issues.

SAVY Consultation

The SAVY consultation started during week commencing 10 August and is due to finish this week. We look forward to learning what the consultation has revealed and Mark has asked the CSU Team to advise when a report and feedback will be available.

Fencing / gating of the WWI Bowling Pavilion

Installation is due to start this week.

Covenants and Bylaws

We've now been waiting 10 months for guidance from the council's legal advisors on whether a better football provision can legally be made in the park.

Jane Bardsley has advised that she is preparing a report to Marple Area Committee requesting formal approval to provide a better provision. This is due to be presented at the next AC meeting on 30 September.

Cllr Alexander has also mentioned that AC will consider this report in September.

(Post meeting note: Legal has now provided a partial response and they need to do further work as there does appear to be potential issues with providing such a facility. We understand that the report to AC will be held pending this.)

3.2 Roundabout in Infants Play Area / Play Area Improvements

Work is nearly completed to repairs of the Junior Play Area safe surface.

The roundabout installation is expected to start soon. Mark has requested an update from Richard Booker. *(PMN: there has been a slight delay on delivery of the roundabout and work is now expected to start week commencing 5th October.)*

3.3 Park Benches

General Bench Maintenance

Benches are generally in good shape ready for winter. Patrick has some concerns about the longevity of the 3 concrete benches along the Bowling Green hedge. He will give them a good sanding and another coat of preservative and see how they fare.

The council has provided a further 4 tins of Summer Tan preservative.

It was agreed that the "Alan Proctor" seat may benefit from being varnished.

Town Centre Benches

A pilot bench has been refurbished near the NatWest Bank. Harmony Décor has expressed an interesting in sponsoring this bench, which is right outside their shop.

We now need to sell the idea of sponsorship to other local shops. Patrick has drafted a letter that is currently with Mark to review before being distributed.

3.4 Treatment of Sculptures & Wooden Features

Everything is ready for winter apart from the Dragonfly nature posts.

3.5 Commemorative Plaques

No change: We've been waiting since September 2014 for the Greenspace Team to draft a report on the commemorative plaques for submission to Area Committee. They have advised, "This will be done when they have capacity within the team".

We have had several enquiries that would be suitable for this scheme recently and as it is now a full 12 months since we were promised a report Mark has followed this up with Ian Walmsley and Jane Bardsley. As yet we've had no further response.

3.6 Park Buildings

Bowling Pavilion

The 2 windows boarded up following forced entry to the Mess Room several months ago have still not had a permanent repair. We will chase this up after completion of the gates and railings being added to the building.

Bowlers Hut

The metal security screen still needs to be properly re-fixed.

New supports on gutters are needed.

3.7 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

The Skipton Building Society has rejected our recent grant application.

Our application to Stockport Homes for a further £1,000 was successful.

New grant applications have been made to:

- Morrisons (via Marple Civic Society).
- Mars Milk (on-line votes needed).
- Life Leisure.
- Arcon Housing Association.

The project has recently been reported in the Marple Review.

The recent Ring o' Bells Quiz night raised £70.50.

A donation of £150 has been received from Marple Carnival.

Art Exhibition at Marple Library for months of September

The Art Exhibition is currently underway and will remain until the end of September. As well as the SMA we have contributions from Arthur Procter, skatepark users Lewis Abbott and Ben Meeks, Natalie Whittaker and The Marple Website.

Sales are slow. Arthur and Mark have both sold one canvas print each.

Mellor Mill Day – Sunday 6 September 2015

The Mellor Mill Fun Day was a great event and we raised £89. £15 was donated to Friends of our Valley and the balance of £74 put toward the project.

Food and Drink Day – Saturday 19 September 2015

Everything is ready for this coming Saturday. Micaela, Terry Neil, Bernard, Joyce, Anne, Gill and Mark will man the stall during the day. Patrick will help set-up and take down. Our stall is number 10, outside Copenhagen, and we'll meet at 8am.

(Post Meeting Note: £660 in total was raised at the event. A big thanks to everyone who helped, especially to Micaela and Terry for organising the tombola.)

Marple SkateFest Music Night – Saturday 14 November 2015

This is all arranged for Saturday 14 November from 7.30pm to midnight at Hawk Green Cricket Club. It has been organised for us by Dave Ingham of Lazlo Baby and Rick from All Things Nice has agreed to provide "Street Food" free of charge.

Posters, flyers and tickets are being organised.

The full line up is still to be fixed. All Things Nice, Inkbox and Stationery Supplies have agreed to sell tickets and they are also available on-line.

Funding Update:

Target:	£100,000	
Community Funding:	£23,090	(excluding £2,500 FM CDL Fund).
With match funding:	£46,180	
Balance needed:	£53,820	
We need to raise:	£26,910	(50% of balance).

Other items

There is no progress on the dialog with Asda.

We need to follow up with Marple Hall School.

3.8 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

Next man is Jack Hardy on 25 September.

As stocks were low 3 of each of the 2 WWI commemorative flag designs were purchased at a cost of £29.40 for 6 flags.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Days – 15, 23, 29 August, 12 September 2015

Four task days have been completed since the last meeting, including bench refurbishment on Market Street. Tasks in the park have included hedge and shrub trimming, with new petrol driven power tools, flowerbed maintenance, bench maintenance and treatment of sculptures and litter picking.

Next Task Days – 26 September 2015

We have lots of bulbs to be planted and plenty of other tasks to tackle.

Free parking has been requested.

Mark will send out the task day emails when due.

We are due to revert to one task day per month now (see Ad-Hoc below).

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2015

Approved: 26 September & 31 October 2015.

To register: 28 November & 26 December 2015 (if to go ahead).

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days are approved on the council's system until 31 December 2015 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures.

It was agreed to hold an extra Adhoc task day on Saturday 17 October. It is also expected that we will have another on 7 November to ensure the Memorial beds are in good order for the Remembrance Sunday service.

Risk Assessments / Training

11 volunteers have attended the previous risk assessment training and 6 have done the new Team Leader training.

Chris, Michaela and Lorraine are awaiting dates for the Team Leader course.

Mick and Bob are waiting for the power-tools training.

A risk assessment has been issued and approved for hedge trimming with power tools using the new format provided by the council / SSK.

Power Tools

A petrol long-reach / angle hedge trimmer and strimmer combination has been purchased from Screwfix for £70 and is now delivered and has been used.

A good quality second hand strimmer has been purchased via Joyce for £15 paid from cash collected in the park during task days.

PPE including helmet with ear defenders and visor, plus a separate visor and earplugs have also been purchased at a cost of £51 and fuel at a cost of £5.81.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

The balance on latest bank statement dated 21 August is £25,574.90.

Income since last meeting includes:

£21.36 Local Giving.
£1,000 Stockport Homes.
£150.00 Marple Carnival.

£170.00 Donations in memory of Edward Shelley.
£70.50 Ring o' Bells Quiz night.
£74.14 Mellor Fun Day.
£31.69 Collected in Park.
£20.00 FoCAP (Splat the Rat).

Mark will write to Mr Shelley's daughter again thank the family for further donations.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£4.95 Sharpening of shears.
£6.00 Plants.
£70.00 Hedge Trimmer.
£5.81 Petrol.
£50.94 PPE.

Pending:

£29.40 Flags.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park Fund £23,090, Pavilion Fencing £3,150, Flowerbeds £18 and WWI Display £128, leaving a working balance of £537.82.

Any Other Business

5.1 Plaque on Picnic Bench

Terry asked if it would be acceptable for him to put a memorial plaque on one of the picnic benches made by the David Lewis Centre. Everyone agreed to this.

5.2 Waste Bins

Still awaiting the bin at the Skatepark to be replaced.

5.3 Meal with Rotary

The Rotary Club has invited us to a meal and presentation about the Stockport Hydro tomorrow evening. Micaela, Terry, Gill and Mark will attend.

We will also be doing the Christmas collection with the Rotarians at Asda this year.

5.4 Task Days Tea Breaks

It was suggested that we have a fixed time for tea breaks to avoid uncertainty when people are in different areas of the park. It was also highlighted that a new kettle would be helpful and it was agreed to purchase from the group's working funds.

5.5 Next Meeting

Meeting scheduled for 12 October is cancelled; the next meeting will be Monday 9 November 2015 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2015 (library booked):

9 November and 14 December 2015.