

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 10 September 2018  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Joyce Reed, Mick Thompson (Part time), Bob Wilson, Micaela Wood, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Terry Wood, Lorraine Thompson, Patrick O'Herlihy, Cllr Malcolm Allan.

**2.0 Minutes of last meeting (AGM):** Agreed.

### **3.0 Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA**

A revised planning application was submitted at the end of July. This incorporates a footpath at the back of the skatepark area, which was the main issue that was stalling the process. We've been told that a decision will be made by the end of September.

With Richard Booker we have been chasing Canvas Spaces for an updated price for the Phase II skatepark works and also 3D visuals. Richard will then apply for an exemption from tender for this aspect of the project, which may take a while.

Funding is in place for the scheme, although we do not know for sure that we have enough until final prices are obtained for both the skatepark works and the MUGA. It is possible some additional fund-raising and / or grant applications will be required.

#### **3.2 Bowling Green**

**Possible artwork to pavilion:** This has fallen through as the Marple College art students decided that they didn't want to go ahead after all. There are options to take this up with others but there is not time to do anything before Remembrance now, so the idea will go onto the back-burner. No costs have been incurred.

**Realignment of gates:** This work has been completed.

**Use of Bowling Hut for skateboard coaching:** Lewis Abbott has managed to arrange for charity "Street Games" to provide a 2 day skateboard coaching course in Marple. They struggled to find a suitable venue but the Bowling Club agreed that the hut could be used and the first day was held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September. The second part is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>. Lewis and possibly one other will attend free of charge.

#### **3.3 Play Areas and Play Equipment**

**New equipment:** Our grant application to the Auto Trader Community Fund was successful and we have received a grant of £1,000 towards the Ocean See-Saw.

The total cost is £5,570 and this is made up of: £1,702 from commuted sums, £2,154 from the Treasure Hunt, £1,000 from Auto Trader, £100 donated by the Marple Website, £300 from our reserves and £314 from the council.

An order has been placed and the installation is expected later this month.  
(PMN: *The Ocean See-Saw is now installed.*)

#### **3.4 Encouraging new volunteers**

**Planting for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Votes for Women:** Planting was completed and the bed has been looking great, although it needed lots of watering in July and August! It was agreed that the artwork would be left up until the end of the year.

### 3.5 Park Benches

**Kay bench:** Cleaning and treatment of the bench with clear preservative is now all finished. It looks much better and hopefully can be sustained with regular care.

**Park benches general:** Ongoing.

Patrick has been making great progress on bench maintenance, including repainting black metal elements this year. There are several benches that he would like to replace the slats on and we have a good number of spare slats now that could be machined for a better surface. Patrick is talking to Terry about this task.

An additional 4 x 5L tins of preservative has been purchased at a cost of £60.92.

**Town Centre benches:** A Risk Assessment and Task Day application to work on the TC benches has been submitted and approved. This year we will just re-treat the benches we have already refurbished as we currently have no facility for sanding.

**Hard-standings for benches:** Three benches at the skatepark still have to be done.

**Visit to Fletcher Moss Park:** Mick, Lorraine, Gill and Mark visited in June. It's a lovely park but the finish on the benches that had impressed Mick and Lorraine several months ago has deteriorated significantly and is not something we would choose to replicate. We will stick with the treatment process that we have been using.

**Visit to Queen's Park Rochdale:** Bob is keen to take us to this park for inspiration and an enjoyable day out. Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September was pencilled in and final arrangements can be made on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, which is a task day.

**Scheme for replacement of existing commemorative benches:**

Greenspace has confirmed that they wish us to comply with the new procedure of advertising the replacement of commemorative benches for 12 months so that the original donors may be found and given the opportunity to sponsor a replacement.

We have agreed the format and content of the notice with Greenspace and Terry has been asked to make some boards to attach the notices to the benches that we would like to replace. In the first instance these are the 3 concrete framed ones along the main path near the Bowling Green, which are approaching 30 years of age.

### 3.6 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

**Replacement of Midnight:** The sculpture is deteriorating quickly now. Myers Tree Care has recently agreed to remove it for us but have yet to do so. We may look at doing this ourselves during the next Task Day.

**Info board near to Lock 10:** HB Printing has quoted £56+VAT for vinyl printed on Dibond (the same as the timeline) or on plastic (Foamex) for £40+VAT.

We are not sure how long these materials will last in the lecterns at a 45 degree angle but it was agreed that due to the relatively low cost we could do the one near Lock 10 as a trial. We would need some artwork in order to do this of course.

**Painting of Pavilion Building:** The main doors to the pavilion have been painted. We have yet to do under the canopy and this will probably be deferred until next year.

We are still awaiting repairs to the guttering on the pavilion building.

**Painting of Bowling Hut:** Awaiting the repairs detailed below:

**New door to tool store:** This has been chased up with Greenspace and they have advised that it is now on this year's annual maintenance plan.

**Bricking up of window in Bowling Hut:** This has also been chased up and is now on the annual maintenance plan and should be completed this financial year.

**Breathing Places reading circle:** We are still waiting for Greenspace to obtain a price for a contractor to resurface the reading circle. In the meantime we have had a good tidy-up session in the area during our last task day and it looks much better.

**Painting of Infants Play area fence:** Start was delayed awaiting proper cleaning of the fence. We asked for it to be done again but ended up having to do it ourselves. This necessitated the preparation of a risk assessment and task day application to use our Jet-wash in the park. After this was approved some progress has been made on both cleaning and painting but weather has not been favourable. We will continue as weather permits but the full task will not be completed this year now.

**Boules Court top-up:** This was completed with students from Marple College and material has been compacted with a whacker-plate hired from Wright Hire.

The court does now need some weeding and possibly levelling / re-compacting.

**Tarmac to paths near War Memorial and Offices:** We asked for a price for doing this work in April this year so that we could speak to Councillors about the possibility of getting it done before Remembrance 2018.

A price of £10,840 was eventually received from Greenspace on 16 July. The scope of work that this price covered was not clearly defined, so we produced a plan to clarify our understanding of what would be included and sent it to Greenspace to validate. This identified that there was a key area where the tarmac is cracked by tree roots that wasn't covered and Greenspace undertook to get a revised price.

This was chased up but not forthcoming. So in mid-August we wrote to councillors asking them if they would be prepared to consider funding the work from their Delegated Highways Budget (noting that a price revision was awaited).

The initial response from councillors was very positive, however, one councillor was concerned about potential development in the park arising from ongoing consultations relating to the possibility of relocating Marple swimming pool. Apparently one of the options being considered is a total redevelopment of the "built areas" within the park.

Councillors agreed that Mark should meet with Wayne Bardsley and Richard Booker to review the area to be covered and to consider providing some options for reducing the scope to cater for the potential future development or patching only. There was also a concern about the route for skatepark phase II construction access to be discussed.

This meeting was held on site last Monday. It was concluded that patching would result in abortive costs and that there were no areas that need to be excluded due to potential future development as the pathway alongside the offices (the only section that could conceivably be affected) is in particularly poor condition and is developing into a tripping hazard. It was also concluded that the construction route for the skatepark phase II could be protected by matting and would therefore not stop the tarmac works going ahead. So it was agreed that Wayne would submit a paper to Marple Area Committee requesting that councillors consider funding this work (total cost now £11,511) from their Highways Budget. It is hoped that the committee will support this initiative for the long-term improvement of the park's infrastructure.

It is acknowledged that there may not (at council speeds) be time to get this work done before the Remembrance Service now, although TLC are still saying that they can do it. We have stressed to Greenspace that the work should not impact on the service and should be done afterwards if there is a risk of not getting it done in time.

Wayne also undertook to get a quote from an external contractor as well as TLC.

**Possible refurbishment of Park Toilets:** The Carillion engineer who undertook to look at the toilet refurbishment study was made redundant in June. She is now back working for the council and after chasing this up with Ian Walmsley she has said that this is one of the jobs that she will be picking up in the near future.

**Internal door on gents toilets:** This was repaired in time for the Carnival but has since developed a problem again. It is understood that it was being repaired again at the back end of last week but we haven't checked yet, *(PMN: the repair is done)*.

We have received a complaint from a member of the public about a lack of toilet paper in the gents. This has been passed onto Greenspace for action.

### **3.7 Skatepark Development Project**

**Possible relocation of CCTV camera:** The Tree Officer has confirmed by email that he would not object to pruning the trees for CCTV so long as it was not excessive.

Cllr. Allan has also been chasing this up and he was told that the crown-lifting would cost "a few thousand" but we have not been told that yet. Cllr. Allan advises that Richard Booker and TLC are now talking about this again and he has offered to meet them when they have looked at solutions.

The recent site visit to discuss tarmac has also revealed that the same two trees will need to be crown-lifted in order to provide access for construction traffic under them for the skatepark phase II works. So this will now serve a double-purpose.

### **3.8 World War I Centenary Commemorations**

**Timeline Commemoration:** William Cooper, William Duxbury, Herbert Adshead, Stanley Warburton, Robert Hallworth, Harold Cooke, Norman Greaves and Sydney Willshaw has been added since the last meeting.

**Permanent display:** Details of the last 27 men for the 6<sup>th</sup> panel have been sent to HB Printing, a proof has been received and approved.

The panel will be installed on or shortly after 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018.

**Poppy Appeal:** This year 198 Street Poppies are being erected by the Marple Poppy Appeal Team. We have 28 lampposts in the park and have given the organisers a list of 20 men linked to the Carver family, Hollins Mill or who lived close by. We will erect these in the park on behalf of the appeal.

**Knitted Poppies:** The 141 poppies knitted by Gill were fixed on the memorial railings during Open Gardens and will be installed again for the Remembrance period.

### **3.9 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Days – 26 May, 23 June, 14 & 28 July, 11 & 25 August 2018**

We've held six main task days since the last meeting covering all kinds activities.

#### **Ad-hoc Task Days: 25 & 26 June 2018**

Two extra task days were held to top-up the French Boules court plus numerous short sessions to water vulnerable plants though July and August.

#### **Next Task Days – 15 & 29 September 2018**

Parking is arranged, emails will be sent out when due.

#### **Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments**

Everything is up-to-date and covered until 31 December 2018.

**Saturday Task Days in 2018:** 15, 29 September, 13, 27 October, 10, 24 November & 29 December.

**Training / Power Tools:** No change.

#### **4.0 Funding - Status of Funds**

The last statement dated 22 August showed a balance of £7,451.11.

##### **Income since last meeting:**

£263.43	Local Giving (includes a one-off donation of £100).
£100.00	The Marple Website.
£30.00	Marple Bands (2 x £15 standing orders for garden care).
£1,000.00	Auto Trader Community Fund.
£20.02	Refund on part of Hayloft plant order (failed plants).
£200.00	Donation from organisers of Marple Beer Run.
£214.00	Collected in park during task days, carnival and open gardens.

##### **Expenditure since last meeting:**

£807.00	HB Printing for 5 of 6 Time Line panels.
£28.00	Wacker-plate hire from Wright Hire.
£7.45	Round-up weedkiller.
£4.95	5 packs of paint brushes.
£4.20	Watering can rose.
£7.48	Tape and cable-ties.
£11.50	10 x wire brushes.
£9.20	Cable connectors, pliers, screwdriver (repair to belt sander).
£60.92	4 x 5L tins of Barretine wood preserver.
£1.30	Canes.

Current commitments are £193 for last Time Line panel and £3,554 contribution to the Ocean See-Saw, leaving a working balance of £4,054.

**New bank account:** We have banked with the RBS on Market Street since 2003 but unfortunately it is due to close in January 2019. Mark has investigated other banks with local branches and Nationwide does not currently do accounts for community groups but Barclays does. It was agreed to seek to set-up a new account for the group at the local Barclays branch with Mick, Mark and Micaela as signatories.

#### **5.0 Any Other Business**

##### **5.1 Marple Carnival – 16 June 2018**

The event went well and we raised £651 for Cancer Research UK.

##### **5.2 Open Gardens in Marple (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2018)**

A great success! We raised £518 for Cancer Research UK on our stall in the park and the overall event raised a total of £13,000 for the cause.

##### **5.3 Possible outing on New Horizons**

No progress. Micaela will look at this again for next year.

##### **5.4 Lock 11 Repairs**

A major repair is required at Lock 11, similar to the rebuild completed at Lock 15 recently. The Canal & River Trust have asked to use the park for access and as a

construction compound. Mark and Wayne Bardsley have met with CRT to discuss this once and a second meeting is to be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

CRT have drilled two test holes in the park in order to ascertain the ground conditions to aid their detailed design and they are hoping to start the works in November.

One or two large mature Silver Birch trees will need to be removed. We have asked that if possible the last of these trees nearest to Lock 10 be retained as it is full of character. Other smaller trees will need to be removed too and these will be stored and replanted or replaced after the works is completed.

We will talk further about these aspect during the meeting on Wednesday.

The owners of the property next to Lock 11 have offered to donate plants and a small tree on the canal bank to the park as these will need to be removed for the work.

## **6.0 Next Meeting**

Monday 8 October 2018 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

### **Future meeting dates scheduled for 2018/19 (library booked):**

8 October, 12 November, 10 December, 14 January 2019, 11 February, 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June 2019.