

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 10th February 2014
Marple Library**

Present: Terry Wood, Micaela Wood, Lorraine Thompson, Mick Thompson,
Adrian Ellis, Joyce Reed, Geoff Abell, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Anne Frazer, Bob Wilson, Patrick O’Herlihy. Members of the group present introduced themselves to Geoff Abell, chair of the local Liberals.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Diamond Jubilee Project

Repairs to Crown

Mark has met with Wayne Chaisty and agreed that the best course of action is to remove all the jewels and refit them with straps across the back. This should make them much harder to prise off again. A total of 13 jewels will need to be re-fixed in this way. The work would be done in three stages – jewels removed and grind-off / clean-up old clasps – we paint the crown – jewels then refitted with new galvanised straps. Wayne has quoted £150 for his involvement and it was agreed to proceed.

Repairs to Coping

A quote of £150 has been obtained for re-fixing two loose copings and re-pointing the others. Although we could attempt this repair the concern is the quality and level-ness that could be achieved. It was agreed to proceed based on the quotation.

Funding of Repairs

Spending on repairs arising from vandalism to the Diamond Jubilee bed and the tree sculptures now looks likely to total more than £600. This has had to come from the group’s budget for planting of the project raised by the local community.

Mark proposed an appeal to Marple Area Committee for support with this via a Flexibility Grant Application. This was agreed as a good course of action to potentially replenish our funds for planting in the park. The costs incurred or committed are:

£162.60	Purchase of Skate-Stops
£31.06	2-part Epoxy Resin and Heat Bags
£34.46	Replacement Glass Jewels
£150.00	Removal and re-welding of more secure clasps for jewels in Crown
£150.00	Refitting of two large copingstones and pointing of others
£40.00	Allowance for paint materials after repairs to Crown
<u>£50.00</u>	Threaded bar for re-fixing 5 ground sculptures
£618.22	

(Post meeting note: A Flexibility Funding Application for £620 was submitted to Marple Area Committee for consideration on 11 February 2014.)

Planting

Bulbs are now starting to come through and we look forward to a welcome show of spring colour. Joyce highlighted that the Polyanthus transferred to the Senior Citizens bed have been putting on a great show all through the winter too.

Possible Extension of Library and Hollins House CCTV Systems

The report on options and costs for extending the CCTV systems at the library and Hollins House due to be published by the council on 27 January has not been received. The SSK engineer concerned has been off sick and although he is now back he has not yet answered any email enquiries asking for an updated forecast.

Mark has chased this up today and will continue to pursue. *(Post meeting note: a forecast issue of the end of this week was received from the engineer on 11 February, however this has not been received at the time of publishing these minutes.)*

The Library management has issued a statement expressing concern at possible increased involvement of staff in reviewing recordings and transferring information to DVD. This will need to be considered as part of any proposals put forward.

Adrian highlighted that there is a CCTV system at the Brabyns Park depot but recordings are reviewed and managed by SSK Security Staff, not by park operatives. He suggested that it might be possible to introduce this approach at the library.

Deployable CCTV

The Community Safety Unit are still looking at the technical issues of installing Deployable CCTV in the park to monitor anti-social behaviour. It's hoped they can find a solution to allow it to be mounted temporarily on Hollins House or the Library.

Ultrasound Deterrent Devices

The Community Safety Unit has been asked to advise the council's position on "Mosquito" ultra-sound devices that are reported to help manage anti-social behaviour and a response is awaited. *(Post meeting note: a response has been received on 11 February advising that this is something that the authority would not endorse as there are too many questions of liability. They have suggested the possible use of pink fluorescent lights that is apparently reported to have similar results.)*

3.2 Park Benches

Picnic Benches

Terry and his lads from the David Lewis Centre have fitted metal leg braces to the picnic bench damaged by vandals and it is now ready for re-installation. Hopefully this can be done during the next task day if the park is dry enough.

Terry will provide an invoice for £50 from the DLC covering materials for this and the threaded bars for re-fixing the five ground sculptures.

Extra Picnic Bench inside Infants Play Area

A second bench for this area is on order from the David Lewis Centre.

Town Centre Benches

We are hoping to do a trial bench on Derby Way to confirm how much work is involved and to demonstrate how good a job we will be able to make of them. Unfortunately this is proving difficult due to the constant wet weather.

Patrick will take "before" pictures of all the benches in preparation for making an application to Area Committee for funding as Marple Regeneration Partnership.

General Bench Maintenance

A new commemorative bench is to be installed in the Infants Play Area. This is being organised by Anthony Crook and will be paid for by a local family.

Anthony has also undertaken to get SSK to put a hard surface under the bench located between the two play areas as this has become unusable due to the existing surface breaking down. It's expected to be done before the end of March.

The dark brown preservative sample purchased by Patrick has been tried out on the Bluhm bench opposite the Senior Citizens Hall and the stocks. Although this looks fine (the Bluhm bench was originally dark brown anyway) the consensus is that it is too dark for use on many of the others. Mark has therefore purchased a tin of "Summer Tan", which is somewhere between the dark brown and the golden brown that we've been using to date. We will try this out and then ask Jonathan Long to order larger quantities of the preferred colour for our ongoing park bench maintenance.

Patrick is seeking sponsors for the 3 concrete benches near the bowling green hedge.

3.3 Infants Play Area Fence

Painting of the Infants Play Area fence will be continued when the weather is suitable.

3.4 Treatment of Sculptures

Terry and the DLC lads have fitted new screwed rods to the last three ground sculptures and they are now ready for refitting when the weather is suitable. One of these was partially rotted so Terry has adapted it to be re-fixed on its side.

The "Midnight" tree sculpture will be given its annual jet-wash and treatment with preservative as soon as practical. We also need to consider taking some measures to combat decay of the sculpture around the roots. There are some areas that are becoming quite soft and it may be beneficial to cut them out and replace with concrete to prolong the sculptures useful life. Terry will have a look at this for us.

3.5 Bowling Pavilion Building Access

Mark has met on-site with Jonathan Long to agree a strategy for building access for the group: We will become registered key-holders for the "Garage" store at the front of the former Bowling Pavilion building. As SSK does not intend to use this for storage any longer Friends of the Park will become the primary users.

Once we have a set of keys we can make arrangements for clearing out things we don't need and for the storing of our own equipment. Things we will look at once we have possession include more wheelie-bins and installation of a secure outside tap. *(Post meeting note: Key Holder agreement has been signed and keys are awaited.)*

There are some repairs needed including a couple of windows, some slates on the roof and vandalised drain pipes to re-fix. One of the windows to the Mess Room also needs maintenance repair work. Jonathan has instructed for these items of work to be done.

We will continue to have access to the Mess Room and one of the lockers inside for the storage of tea, coffee, cups etc. We will also continue to have access to our small store at the end of the Bowling Club building. This will be useful for storage of smaller equipment that can be used by volunteers on "ad-hoc" task days without the need for access to the larger store.

The council's Conservation Officer has confirmed that the former Bowling Pavilion building, which was built by the Royal British Legion in 1923 in memory of their comrades who fell during WWI, is registered as a War Memorial. This applies to the building nearest the car park only, the Bowling Club building was added much later.

The building is registered on the War Memorials Archive, which contains some references to several issues of the Hyde Peak Reporter in 1923. Mark has tracked copies down at New Mills and will visit to see if there is anything of interest in them.

Bob has also mentioned that some council officers visited recently to take some photos of the plaque inside and the replica that we had installed outside in 2007.

3.6 Skatepark Development Project

Teen Shelter

Mark and Bob met with Community Safety Team Officer Ronit Bowman last week to discuss anti-social behaviour issues linked to the Teen Shelter. If the skatepark project is successful the shelter will be removed anyway, however, we have asked for its removal to be considered now. Because it was originally installed using community funds its removal will have to be approved by Area Committee. Ronit is currently discussing the issues with the Greenspace Team. One of the concerns is that anti-social behaviour will migrate to other areas of the park. It is hoped that the increased use of CCTV and Deployable cameras mentioned earlier can be used to deter this from sensitive areas like the library, bowling green buildings and play areas.

Latest Skatepark Project News

Minutes of the last skatepark meeting held on 3 February were distributed with the agenda and are also appended to the end of these minutes. Highlights are:

Fund Raising Status

Money raised to date: £15,796
Money spent to date: £1,909 (Carnival Event)
Community Fund Award: £1,700 (See below*)
Funding balance: £13,887
Match-funding available: £12,187 (against a target of £20,000)

*A Community Fund response is still awaited to agree the purpose of their grant.

Additional match-funding support is looking positive from Romiley and Marple Lions, Marple Rugby Club, Marple Business Forum, Marple Bands and Marple Civic Society.

The Council has confirmed the allocation of £22,000 from Commuted Sums towards the project with the proviso that our bid to Veolia is successful.

Collection of letters of support from Community Groups is going well.

We are now moving forward on seeking planning permission, developing the design and the procurement strategy for re-tendering to skatepark contractors.

Latest news since the meeting is that artist Sarah Morley will support the project with an art exhibition in the library from 15 to 29 March. The theme of the exhibition is paintings of local parks inspired by the consultations on council cuts last year. It will support the project by raising awareness of our aims and possibly a modest amount of money from sales and donations to further increase diversity of our match funding.

3.7 World War I Centenary Commemorations

War Memorial "Rose Wall" Hedge

A photo shoot was held during the last task day when we received a cheque for £200 from Councillor Iain Roberts to cover our outlay on this project.

Another small WWI Project?

We were the first recipients of a Stockport Council "World War One grant", which is a small grant scheme contributing up to £500 towards local WWI projects. The council's panel has agreed that we can submit a second application for up to £300 toward a different project that will be considered on its merits.

Ideas were discussed including something possibly linked to the Bowling Pavilion building. Mark also outlined an idea to create a metal silhouette that could be mounted in the tubular steel frame near to the park entrance. Micaela suggested involving local artist Steve Abbott and Mark agreed to approach him about this. *(Post meeting note: Mark met Steve in the park on 14 February and he is going to work on some ideas involving WWI silhouettes by Captain H.L. Oakley.)*

Primary Schools WWI Project

No news - a progress update is still awaited from Alan Chin.

3.8 Park Cottage (Charles Ingham Bandroom)

Mark had a tour of the building with Sue Emery during the last task day. The project is looking really good and an official opening of the Bandroom is planned for Sunday 18 May, when both bands will take part in a "Brass in the Park" style concert.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Day – Saturday 25 January 2014

The park was very wet so a small group of volunteers focused on beds that can be reached from hard ground around the offices, library and play areas.

Nest Task Day - Saturday 22 February 2014

Hopefully we will re-fix the rest of the sculptures and the picnic bench. However, it looks like the park will still be very wet, so many activities will be weather dependent.

Mark will send out parking requests and task day email.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2014

22 February, 29 March, 12 & 26 April, 17 & 31 May, 14 & 28 June, 12 & 26 July, 16 & 30 August, 13 & 27 September, 25 October, 29 November & 27 December 2014.

Special Task Day – Monday 18 August with Challenge Network

A special task day has been arranged with the Challenge Network, who will bring a team of up to 12 young volunteers with supervision to work with us in the park between 11am and 3.30pm. They will be covered by their own RA's and insurance.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days have been registered on the council's system until 30 June 2014 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures. These must be led by a volunteer who has been on the council's Risk Assessment Course.

Risk Assessments / Task Day Registration

Volunteers who can lead tasks are Terry, Patrick, Mick, Mark, Gill and Micaela. Bernard Kelly would like to attend the course and Lorraine would like to go too. Adrian suggested that both he and Bob should go on the course too in preparation for their leaving SSK but continuing as volunteers. Mark will try to arrange.

Task Days up to and including 29 March 2014 are registered and approved on the council web site. Mark will register the next 6 months as soon as possible.

Our general tasks, painting and wood treating RA's have recently been updated.

First Aid Kit

Micaela raised the issue of us having our own first aid kit. This has been mentioned a few times and we have asked the council in the past without success. *(Post meeting note: an HSE approved First Aid Kit for medium groups of 10-20 persons and an Eye-Wash Kit has been ordered on 14 February at a cost of £33.42 including delivery.)*

Task Day Clothing

Micaela also raised the issue of baseball caps and uniform. Previously volunteers have paid for their own polo shirts embroidered with our logo. Mark will confirm current prices for anyone who would like to purchase one. Clothing was discussed further and it was agreed that hi-vis tabards or vests would be a good idea – these would make volunteers more visible in all weathers as the polo shirts are covered up unless it's warm. They could also be stored on site. Mark will obtain prices for these too.

SSK Support for Task Days

Mark has met with one of the new team leaders Steve McGlynn. Adrian advised that there was a second new team leader for the area called Adam Gordon too.

There is no news on the Greenspace Forum campaign to reinstate task day support from SSK to volunteers. Sadly this is due to a family bereavement of the person organising the campaign, so it may be a while before we hear more.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

The group's accounts for year ending 31 December 2013 have been submitted to the McInnes Partnership for audit in advance of the AGM.

Balance on last statement for 22 January 2014 is £14,853.82

Income since last meeting includes:

£2.37 Local Giving
£0.92 Interest
£850.00 Marple & Goyt Valley Rotary Club

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£24.56 Resin for fixing skate-stops
£34.98 Two pairs of extending shears
£39.90 10 small shrubs
£4.99 Long handled scraper to help remove skate-wax
£6.50 Home made wheat heat-bags for installing skate stops
£2.30 Recorded delivery of letter to Co-Op Community Fund
£10.99 40mm diameter replacement glass jewels
£90.00 Refunded to Ian Moss*

*As explained last month, due to a Royal Bank of Scotland error we received £90 more than intended from donator Ian Moss. Confirmation was received from Ian that he had over-paid and a cheque has now been sent to refund him the £90.

Committed funds in account are: Jubilee Project £334 and the Skate Park Fund £13,887, leaving a working balance of £517. Mark has spent £21.49 on 5L of preservative yet to be claimed and Patrick has also purchased a smaller tin of preservative that also needs to be reimbursed from the balance.

Funding directly raised by the group since it formed in 2003 now stands at a fantastic total of £53,617. Geoff Abell congratulated the group on this excellent achievement.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Bowling Green Steps

Jonathan Long has confirmed that the fenced off area – formerly steps down to the Bowling Green – will be re-soiled and seeded with grass in the spring.

5.2 Street Lights not working

It has now been established that the streetlight near to the offices (now numbered 12) has never had a power supply to it. The Lighting Officer is currently receiving quotes to rectify this situation and it should be done within the next few weeks, subject to sufficient funding being available.

The second light (now numbered 16) near the Park Cottage that has not worked for some considerable time is subject to more confusion. The Lighting Officer has reported several times via Jane Bardsley that it has been fixed but each time we check it is still not working. The situation is currently being re-investigated.

(Post meeting note: following another report on 12 February that this light has been fixed it has been re-checked and it is still not working. It has now been arranged for Mark to join the lighting repair team for an after-dark inspection on 18 February.)

5.3 Oak Tree near Cinema

Anthony Crook has confirmed that he will raise the priority of the removal of the oak tree near to the cinema to get work on it moving again. It will be left with a 5m to 6m stump for us to consider turning into a sculpture, as previously agreed.

5.4 Stump Grinding

Anthony has also confirmed that grinding of the two stumps left following tree removals last year will be chased up for completion this financial year – he was under the impression that the work had been done some time ago.

5.5 Sponsored Flowerbed Plaques

There is now little opportunity for new benches to be installed in the park, or room for the planting of commemorative trees. Ideally we need to come up with a creative scheme that would allow people to sponsor the flowerbeds in memory of lost family and friends without giving the park the appearance of a crematorium.

If we can come up with a suitable scheme we have the ideal opportunity to make some headway with it as a local lady has been in touch about sponsoring the beds.

A number of ideas were mooted including “walk of fame” style stepping stones and metal artwork in the flowerbeds. An expandable low cost solution that enhances the park is required. Ideas and schemes in other parks need further exploration.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 10 March 2014 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Meeting dates scheduled for 2014 (library booked):

10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November and 8 December 2014.

**Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Monday 3 February 2014
Marple Library**

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

1.0 Absent/Apologies: None.

2.0 Fund Raising Status

Community Funding figures remain as reported at the last meeting with a total of £15,796 raised, less expenditure of £1,909 leaving a balance of £13,887. Excluding the Co-Op Community Fund grant of £1,700 at present, this gives us a match funding pot of £12,187 against the target of £20,000.

We are still awaiting a response from the Co-Op Community Fund regarding putting their grant of £1,700 towards match funding for the project.

Romiley and Marple Lions have been in touch about the possibility of helping the project and by chance Jason, Lewis and Ben bumped into them at the Navigation while they were reviewing the skatepark designs. The Lions were holding their meeting at the same time and took the opportunity for Jason to give them an overview of the project. Feedback from Lions Chairman Terry Harding since has been positive and we hope for some good news around April this year.

Marple Rugby Club has also been in touch about supporting the project and Marple Bands, whose new home is in the Park are also proposing to contribute too.

Mark has written to Marple Business Forum asking for support from their members. It was also agreed to write to Marple Civic Society to request a token of support.

Jason has been talking to Moss Bank Housing Association about possible support. He is also developing ideas with Simon at Woodstock Pizza / Marple Tavern about a community event involving cycling on the Middlewood Way to raise funds.

The other fantastic news is that the Council has now confirmed the allocation of £22,000 from Commuted Sums towards the project with the proviso that our bid to Veolia is successful. If it isn't this will be subject to further consultation.

This allocation puts us in a good position to move forward with design, consultation, planning permission and re-tendering. Fund-raising activities will continue in parallel with this as the larger contribution we make to the total cost the more likely our grant application will be looked on favourably and the better project we can deliver.

3.0 Letters of Support

Letters of support have been received from:

Marple Local History Society; New Mills, Marple & District Rotary Club; Marple District Rambling Club; Cllr Shan Alexander; Marple Firefighters; Greater Manchester Police; Marple Civic Society & Stationery Supplies.

Richard has asked Life Leisure (Marple Fitness Centre) for a letter and will ask Exec Member Cllr Stuart Bodsworth. **Mark** and **Graham** will continue to seek letters from other local community groups and businesses.

4.0 Skate Park Design / Consultation

Lewis, Jason and Ben have met to review all the design suggestions that we've received during consultations and events and come up with a couple of draft schemes that take as many of the suggestions on board as possible.

It was agreed that we should now develop a brief that specifies the key layout and design features that we would like without being too prescriptive in detail to avoid stifling the design input from the potential skatepark contractors. Interpretation and understanding of the brief will be one of the key elements to help us select a contractor to go forward with.

We need to consider how to maintain Marple Hall School users involvement in this too.

Lighting modifications and additions need to be given some thought.

Richard will prepare a draft template for the brief and circulate for discussion.

Richard will also discuss the options for Project Management of the project and investigate the cost of support from the Landscape Team if we choose to use it.

5.0 Procurement Strategy / Re-tendering

Richard has talked with the Procurement Team and an Officer has been assigned to help with the project, including development of a tender scoring process.

It is proposed that the tenders will incorporate a design competition element.

It is also proposed that tenders will be invited using the on-line "Chest" system.

6.0 Planning Permission

Richard has had further talks with the Council's Planners and they've advised that the extension can't be covered by a "Permitted Development" application due to exceeding the 200 cubic metre expansion limit. The Planners' guidance is to make a "Planning in Principle" application first, which doesn't need to be as detailed as a full application. Assuming that this is successful, a full Planning Application could then be made once the final design and contractor are selected.

The costs for Planning in Principle and Full Planning are both £385. Richard advised that Greenspace Team will cover the Planning in Principle fees and probably the Full Planning fees could be included within the skatepark contractor's remit.

We will need to check if this satisfies the Veolia Trust's criteria but in the meantime **Richard** will get the ball rolling on a Planning in Principle application.

7.0 Next Meeting

To be arranged for week commencing 24 February 2014, when Lewis is back from holidays and shift working.