

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
Marple Library**

**Present:** Mick Thompson, Lorraine Thompson, Micaela Wood, Terry Wood, Cllr. Malcolm Allan, Mark Whittaker.

**1.0 Apologies:** Adrian Ellis, Patrick O'Herlihy, Bob Wilson, Joyce Reed.

**2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed.

### **3.0 Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Consultation on better Football Provision**

Although Cllr. Allan was asked to find out if we wanted a consultation or not, he found it had already been issued on 12 December. It was hand-delivered to 37 residents and they were given a deadline of 28 December to respond.

Comments on the content of the consultation were passed to Cllr. Allan.

The next step is that Greenspace will now issue a report for consideration by Marple Area Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017.

#### **3.2 Fencing of Bowling Green**

Richard Booker has advised that he expects to go out to tender by end of January.

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

##### **Infants Play Area Improvements**

Work is anticipated to start week commencing 23 January 2017.

We've suggested to the council that they should put up a notice telling people what is happening, so that the playground closure doesn't come as a surprise.

##### **Infants Play Area Gates**

Temporary latches were due to be fitted today but haven't been.

Installation of the new gates is expected to start towards the end of January. Richard has confirmed that gates will be red to match the existing red on the fence and new welcome signs with age details and "no dogs" will be fitted to both play areas.

#### **3.4 Park Attendant**

After writing to Ian O'Donnell, Cllr Allan has had further discussions with Ian Walmsley about this matter. He is basically being advised that the council's commitment is to ensure that all works are done in the park, not to provide a full time attendant.

The group feel that this misses the point, as ensuring that all the work is done by the roving team would still be the commitment if the proposed cut had been made. But it wasn't made, we were told that the budget for a full time attendant was being left intact and that it would be under the same terms as the previous year.

Cllr Allan has satisfied himself that this was the agreement and will pursue it further.

Our key questions remain:

- How much was the sum of money left in the budget for a full time attendant?
- It is not being used for this, so how and where is the money being spent?

### **3.5 Park Benches**

The picnic bench that was damaged and pulled out by vandals has been repaired off-site by Terry and will be stored until next spring and installed in better weather.

A donation of £100 has been received from John Ashley for the addition of a plaque to the existing Parry family bench. The cost is £75.50 and the plaque has been ordered. *(PMN: an initial proof has been received but it was wrong and a new one is awaited.)*

### **3.6 Town Centre Benches**

To be followed up in the spring.

### **3.7 Park Buildings and Infrastructure**

Myers Tree Care is still on the lookout for replacement logs and a suitable trunk for the longer-term replacement of Midnight.

A new halyard has been obtained for the flagpole near to the war memorial at a cost of £68. It will be fitted during the next suitable task day.

### **3.9 Skatepark Development Project**

#### **Latest Skatepark Project News**

The collections at ASDA were a great success and raised a total of £1,876. A letter of thanks has been sent to Simon, the manager at ASDA. Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped with the collections.

Approx £36 was obtained from the bucket on the bar at the Samuel Oldknow.

On Tuesday 20 December some of our volunteers dined with Marple and Goyt Valley Rotary Club at the Royal Hotel for their last ever meeting. They initially had a cheque for £1,000 to present to us but when they realised this would only leave us £185 short of the £100,000 target they gave us a separate cheque for this amount too.

We've received a further donation of £95 from Marple Tuesday Bridge Group. The group has now donated a total of £250 to the project.

£495.57 has been received via Local Giving. £326.57 of this is from the ongoing Grow Your Tenner payments and £169 from the #GiveMe5 scheme. The #GiveMe5 payment is £50 more than expected as the 10 x £5 matched payments have been doubled to £10. It's possible this is a mistake and £50 may need to be refunded.

We await the outcome of our application to the ASDA Foundation.

#### **Skatepark Funding Status:**

Target:	£100,000	
Community Funding:	£50,406	(growth of £3,686 since last meeting).
With match funding:	£100,406	
Balance needed:	£0	(reduced by £6,966 since last meeting).
We need to raise:	£0	(but see below).

#### **Next phase / other items**

Canvas Spaces issued all the final drawings and method statements that are required by the council to place an order on Thursday 5 January 2017.

We are now waiting for the council to complete their review of these documents, finalise the contract and place the order with Canvas. Following that it should be possible to confirm the start on site date and other associated details.

An additional £825 will be needed to cover extra works to break out the existing steps and to break-up and profile the tarmac triangle left by the reduction of the footprint.

The lower section of the existing skatepark has had problems with small potholes and would benefit from being resurfaced at the same time as the main works. Canvas has provided a price of £11,750 to do this in concrete, which is the preferred option, and the council has advised a budget price of £3,000 to do it in tarmac. We do not have the money for either option at present but will look for suitable opportunities. The council have been asked for their position on availability of extra funds.

Life Leisure has expressed an interest in helping the project. Initial correspondence and brief conversations have been positive but it is not known how this will develop.

This time last year when Forever Manchester released the £2,500 from their CDL Fund they requested an update on the project by the end of January 2017. This has been submitted and they have responded very positively to the current news.

### **3.10 World War I Centenary Commemorations**

#### **Timeline Commemoration**

No change – all is quiet until the first man of 1917 on 25 January.

#### **WW2 Plaque**

Anne is still working on her idea for a film and we look forward to the result.

#### **War Memorial Registration and Survey Workshop**

We have agreed to apply for statutory listing of the war memorial.

### **3.11 Task Days**

#### **Last Task Day – 31 December 2016**

A good turnout by our volunteers and lots of bulbs were planted in the park. As it was New Year's Eve several of us retired to the Samuel Oldknow Bar for some festive refreshments. It was agreed that this was very enjoyable and we must do it more often after our task days! The owners have offered free tea and coffee for volunteers and will allow food/snacks to be taken in. Mark thanked everyone for the signed card and gift voucher presented to him by other volunteers.

#### **Next Task Days – 28 January & 25 February 2017**

Parking is arranged and emails will be sent out nearer the time.

We have notified Greenspace and SSK that we will remove the wreaths from the war memorial on 28 January and asked them not to remove or dispose of them.

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

Our Risk Assessments and COSHH information covering the activities we normally do have been updated and submitted to Greenspace along with a Daily Task Day application covering the next 6 months. These have been approved and we are covered by this until 30 June 2017.

It has recently been agreed with Greenspace that our Daily Task Day application will cover all standard task days as well as ad-hoc ones and we will only need to apply separately for activities that are significantly different to what we normally do.

Mark will look at preparing a refresher document for Team Leaders.

## **Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2017**

28 January, 25 February, 25 March, 15 & 29 April, 13 & 27 May, 10 & 24 June, 15 & 29 July, 12 & 26 August, 16 & 30 September, 14 & 28 October, 11 & 25 November, 30 December.

### **Training**

No change: we are still waiting for suitable dates for Lorraine and Micaela to do the Team Leader training and for Mick and Bob to do the power-tools training.

### **Power Tools**

No change.

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

Latest statement dated 22 December 2016 shows a bank balance of £50,655.16

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

£495.57	Local Giving.
£100.00	John Ashley donation (Parry family bench).
£1,876.00	ASDA Christmas collections.
£36.00	Samuel Oldknow Bar bucket collection.
£1,185.00	Marple and Goyt Valley Rotary Club.
£95.00	Tuesday Bridge Club donation.
£15.00	Charles Ingham Bandroom SO.

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

£75.50	Ashley / Parry bench plaque.
£67.72	Halyard for flagpole.

Income to the 2016 year end is £24,128 (to be confirmed by final bank statement).

Income in 2017 so far is £259.00.

Our income total is now £99,005 and a significant milestone is approaching.

Spent to end of 2016 was £5,090 and spent this year to date £143.22.

Committed funds in account are: Skatepark £50,406, WWI Display £128 and Town Centre Benches £28. This leaves a working balance of £303, which doesn't include just over £20 collected during the last task day and approximately £5 from the Christmas Tree Festival collection bucket still to pay into the bank.

## **5.0 Any Other Business**

### **5.1 Beavers' Flowerbed**

The Beavers have relinquished their flowerbed in the park and this will be taken over by the Allotment Association. They intend to plant mainly fruit bushes in it.

### **5.2 Funding Opportunities**

There are a couple of opportunities available at the moment. Equity have a scheme that includes "Age Friendly" projects with a deadline of Friday 27 January. Mick will have a look at this and see if he feels it is viable to submit an application.

As part of their final closure Anchorpoint are also offering small grants to be spent by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and also free second-hand office equipment with deadlines of 12 February. Mark will look at these opportunities.

### **5.3 Future Projects**

Mark asked for ideas for large or small projects we could tackle in the future. Some provisional suggestions, including things that have been discussed previously, are:

- Better football provision (subject to AC decision).
- Exercise equipment.
- Replacement of Midnight Tree Sculpture.
- Turn WWI Timeline into a permanent display.
- Make park more bee friendly and colourful.
- Ongoing playground improvements (usually funded by commuted sums).
- Upgrade of Park Toilets.
- Overhaul of Sensory Garden.

These and other feasible ideas put forward by anyone else will be considered and developed as and when suitable funding opportunities arise.

### **5.4 Red Robin Shrubs**

Mick and Lorraine are proposing to donate to the park several "Red Robin" shrubs that need to be removed from their garden to make way for an extension. It was agreed to try and tackle the transplanting of these during the 28 January task day.

### **5.5 Wheelbarrow Repair**

It was agreed to look into the cost of purchasing an inner-tube or new wheel for the wheelbarrow that is currently unusable due to a flat tyre.

### **6.0 Next Meeting**

Monday 13 February 2017 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

#### **Future meeting dates scheduled for 2017 (library booked):**

13 February, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May and 12 June 2017.