

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 9th June 2014
Marple Library**

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

1.0 Apologies: Anne Frazer, Adrian Ellis.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Registering as a charity

Our application was submitted on 18 May and acknowledged on 21 May. The Charity Commission has since responded with several questions, which were distributed at the meeting and discussed. The council has been asked for guidance on some of them and Mark will send a full response as soon as possible once their feedback is received.

3.2 Anti-Social Behaviour / Additional CCTV Cameras

ABS Logs submitted since the turn of the year cover 43 reported incidents to date. Recent incidents include:

- Damage to council buildings.
- Smashed windows in the Scout Hut.
- Graffiti to buildings, benches, display panels and notice boards.
- Litter / broken glass.
- Collection of drugs packets from around the park.
- Notice board broken.
- Drug taking / dealing.
- Dog attack on a small tree.
- Car driving at speed in park.

The park is now covered by Operation “Aventor”, where police work with partner agencies to engage with youths in the area and is part of specific patrols. The operation appears to have been running in Offerton for some time.

The Scouts, Senior Citizens and Marple Bands have been contacted about using the ABS logs. We’ve had a positive response from the Scouts so far, who have provided a potted history of the last 12 months and a log for the recent damage. No response from the Senior Citizens or Bands yet. Bowling Club still to be contacted.

We will continue logging all ASB incidents and these will help to build a case for increased patrols and CCTV. Local councillors are being kept informed via copies of logs and it was agreed that individual members should approach them about this too.

3.3 Park Benches

Extra Picnic Bench inside Infants Play Area

Installed during the last task day. Terry has provided an invoice for £100 for supply of this plus the materials for the flowerbed plaque, which was paid at the meeting.

General Bench Maintenance

5 x 5L tins of preservative have been received from the council.

Graffiti has been removed from Jim Heald bench, Sensory Garden bench, Bluhm Family bench and one of the Bowing Green benches. They now need treating.

There is a fault in the wood on one of the slats on the Costa Coffee bench near to the park entrance. Terry and Patrick will have a look at the best way of dealing with this.

The Coronation Bench will be tackled during a suitable task day.

Town Centre Benches

Arrangements to be made as minuted previously.

3.3 Treatment of Sculptures & Wooden Features

Stabilisation of "Midnight" Tree Sculpture

Our grant application to Stockport Homes was approved during the Community Count, although it hasn't yet been confirmed if it's for the full amount of £1,000.

The council has placed an order with Benring Ltd on our behalf and this is waiting for us to agree dates. We need to make sure that we have the money in the bank before committing to this so Mark has chased up Stockport Homes regarding payment.

Infants Play Area Fence

The outside tap is now installed and we should be able to prepare the inner fence around the swings for painting by jet washing before the next task day.

The Challenge Network have agreed to paint the outer fence during their task day on 18 August and they will be providing £100 toward the paint materials. The paint has been ordered via the council and most of it has been received. The fence will need to be prepared by the group in advance of this special task day.

Patrick raised the issue of the blue and red plywood panels on the infant swings. He would like to repaint them but is concerned about the level of decay on some of them as they are a structural part of the swings. It was agreed that we need to discuss this with the council before taking any action. *(Post meeting note: Mark has written to the council and had a site visit with Jane Bardsley to look at the maintenance of these items and we are awaiting feedback from the council on what is needed.)*

3.4 Park Buildings

Repairs

More damage has been done to gutters and roof tiles by vandals following the repairs reported at the last meeting. Anti-vandal paint and signs would be a good idea.

Mess Room window repairs are still outstanding. Mark has again asked for this to be chased up by the council.

Outside Tap

The tap was fitted by Paul Whittaker Plumbing www.marpleplumber.co.uk free of charge on 31 May. We still need to fit a small amount of insulation before winter.

Tool Store

Painting of the Tool Store door is still to complete.

Library Notice Board

The notice board refurbished by the group a couple of years ago has been broken by vandals and needs a new sheet of 3mm Perspex. The cost of this is £21.14 but it was agreed to ask the council if they are able to supply it before purchasing with group funds. *(Post meeting note: request to Jonathan Long issued 11 June and chased up since, also site meeting with Jane Bardsley. Still not clear if council can supply.)*

3.5 Skatepark Development Project

New Perspex in Skatepark Notice Board

The council has replaced the Perspex in this notice board. Unfortunately it has been graffiti-ed regularly since then but so far it has been possible to get it off with wipes.

Latest Skatepark Project News

Minutes of the last skatepark meeting held on 8 May were distributed with the agenda and are also appended to the end of these minutes. Highlights are:

Fund Raising Status

Money raised to date: £18,488
Money spent to date: £1,909 (Carnival Event)
Match funding available: £16,579 (against a target of £20,000)
Needed to reach target: £3,421

£100 received from Marple Business Forum and £30 from Inkbox of Marple.

A grant application was submitted to the CDL Fund via Forever Manchester on 21 May.

We have also applied to the Vernon Building Society Jubilee Fund again.

Marple Fire Fighters are holding an Open Day on Sunday 10 August and have invited us to join them. They will donate 30% of funds raised to the project, which is incredibly generous following on from their support they gave with the 10K run.

Marple Hall School are still expecting to do some fund-raising.

We had several good meetings with tenders including two with Marple Hall School.

Tender returns are due on 13 June and the intention is to consult with users on the designs submitted at Marple Carnival on 21 June. We will need help with set-up and during the day to raise funds and collect users views.

Public Liability Insurance

In preparing for the Carnival it has been found that our existing public liability insurance is no longer valid due to our annual income going over £10,000. Mark is seeking quotes via our broker and the first one is £265 – a big increase on £58 PA!

(Post meeting note: a new policy was secured for £182.50 with a £10.91 refund on the old policy, which was due to expire in September.)

3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Possible Silhouette Art Project

Rights to use the WWI silhouette photograph for our entrance sign project have been purchased from the Mary Evans picture library for £30.

The Stockport laser cutting company contacted has not responded despite several reminders. Terry knows someone who may be able to help and will follow this up.

We hope to develop a design that includes red poppies – maybe in ceramic, glass or enamel. Vernon Mill artists may be a good contact for help with this.

Possible WWI Guided Walks

Andy Cook, co-author of the book "Remembered" has made an approach about organising some guided walks starting and ending in the park that will show people where the Marple men who lost their lives in WWI once lived. Andy will lead the walks but needs help organising and promoting them.

It looks like we will be able to do this in partnership with Marple Local History Society. Mark will be meeting with Andy and MLHS Chairman Hilary Atkinson to discuss.

We will need volunteers to help marshal the walks.

3.7 Task Days

Last Task Day – 17 & 31 May 2014

Two good task days with lots of work on the flowerbeds. We also helped the Brass Bands of Marple to prepare for their official launch of the band room, installed the new picnic bench in the infants play area, raised our 10 Year Anniversary flag with local councillors and installed the outside tap.

Next Task Days – 14 and 28 June 2014

Painting of the Infants Play Area fence will start if the weather allows and plenty of gardening tasks will be available to do too.

Mark will send out parking requests and task day emails.

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.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2014

Registered: 14 & 28 June 2014.

(PMN: 12 & 26 July; 16 & 30 August; 13 & 27 September; 25 October registered.)

To register: 29 November & 27 December 2014.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

(PMN: Daily Task Days now registered on the council's system until 31 December 2014 for gardening tasks, painting and treatment of benches and sculptures.)

Risk Assessments / Training

With 11 volunteers having attended the risk assessment training there are no more training requirements anticipated in the immediate future.

Certificates were passed to Micaela and Terry and there is also one for Patrick.

(Post meeting note: Risk Assessments were reviewed and updated for submission with the latest registered task days, which have been approved by the council.)

SSK Support for Task Days

No more news from the Greenspace Forum on this issue. Their newsletter from the Networking Day on 17 May 2014 has been circulated.

Mark is trying to obtain a copy of the event insurance information that was shared at the Networking Day without success so far.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Balance on last statement for 22 May 2014 is £17,571.37

Income since last meeting includes:

- £100.00 Marple Business Forum.
- £4.60 Local Giving.
- £46.95 Collected in the Park.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

- £47.07 Outside tap materials.
- £2.90 Nuts and washers.
- £3.60 Stainless steel screws.
- £30.00 Silhouette licence.
- £66.80 10-Year Anniversary Flag.
- £12.00 Plants.
- £10.00 5 x Gro Sure Compost bags.
- £22.50 5 x Postcrete bags.
- £1.70 2 x bottles of bleach (to clean toilets).

Expenditure pending (not yet claimed back):

- £100.00 Picnic bench & plaque materials (paid during meeting).
- £21.00 Perspex for library notice board (unless council supply).
- £60.00 Flag pole refurbishment.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park Fund £16,524 and Flowerbeds (Mrs Fielding) £165, leaving a working balance of £626.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Bowling Green Steps

This has at last been re-soiled and seeded.

5.2 Sponsored Flowerbed Plaques

Mrs Fielding's plaque has now been installed. We are now in a position to offer these to others who wish to make a contribution to the park in memory of a loved one. The minimum donation will be £250 including the cost of the plaque.

5.3 Marking 10 Years of Friends of Marple Memorial Park

The commemorative flag was hoisted on 31 May. It was planned to use the former Green Flag flagpole (nearest council offices) but it was discovered that the locking cover for the rope mechanism is broken. The flag was raised on the memorial pole instead but we would like to repair the other. Mark has investigated costs, which will be £50 (+VAT & delivery) for a replacement cover. We can also buy a commemorative WWI flag from the same company for only £9.50 (+VAT) to fly on the memorial pole. It was agreed to purchase both items and repair the Green Flagpole.

5.4 Fund Raising Walk

Micaela has been speaking to the people who organised the Mellor March and will continue to develop ideas for a fund-raising walk.

5.5 Daffodils from Lyme Park

Joyce has managed to obtain some more daffodil bulbs from Lyme Park. She will split these with other groups and they can be planted in the park at the appropriate time.

6.0 Date of next Meeting

Monday 14 July 2014 at 6pm in Marple Library

Meeting dates scheduled for 2014 (library booked):

14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November and 8 December 2014.

**Skate Park Development Project Meeting
Tuesday 8 May 2014
Marple Library**

Present: Lewis Abbott, Ellis Archer McLean, Ryan Smith, Dom Jeffs (Skate Park Users), Graham Clarke (MCS/MVP), Mark Whittaker (FOMMP).

1.0 Absent/Apologies: Jason Saenz, Ben Meek (Skate Park Users)
Richard Booker (Council).

2.0 Fund Raising Status

No change since last meeting on 22 April 2014 with Community Funding raised remaining at a total of £18,358, less expenditure of £1,909 for our Carnival Event in 2013, giving us a match funding pot of £16,449 against the target of £20,000.

The collection by Inkbox of Marple, on Market Street, is ongoing until 31st May and they are also selling some professional quality football boots donated by Umbro.

Marple Business Forum had their AGM yesterday so we should hear from them soon.

Marple Fire Fighters have advised that they will be holding an Open Day on Sunday 10 August and plan to donate 30% of the proceeds to the skatepark project. This is a fantastic offer after their contribution last year and they have also invited us to attend. This will give us a great opportunity to engage with the community again.

Marple Hall School have advised that they are discussing ideas to help raise funds and we look forward to hearing from them when their plans are firmer.

3.0 Letters of Support

New letters of support have been received from:

Life Leisure, Marple Hall School, Marple Vision Partnership, Cllr Susan Ingham and Marple Area Committee.

Mark has written to Rose Hill, All Saints', Brabyns Prep, Ludworth, St. Mary's and Mellor Primary Schools asking if they can provide a letter of support and if they would be prepared to help us with an art / writing project that can be included in our Veolia bid. Positive responses have been received from Rose Hill, St Mary's and Ludworth so far. *(Post meeting note: Positive response also received from All Saints' too.)*

Graham will discuss with Marple Hall School if they can do something too.

4.0 Design Competition Tender

Tender returns are due 13 June 2014.

We had our first tenderer consultation meeting today and more are scheduled for tomorrow, next week and the following week. A detailed list has been circulated and will be updated with any late additions or changes.

Graham will make arrangements for Marple Hall School to attend the consultations.

5.0 Veolia Application

A draft initial enquiry has been agreed and Mark will submit this after 14 May, which will be exactly 6 months to the target submission deadline.

Work also needs to start soon on the main application and supporting documents.

6.0 Other Items

Mark has been in touch with Marple College about developing the first cut video and Jake, the college's technician, has responded positively to our suggestions. There was some uncertainty about how many "talking heads" could be added in. Lewis confirmed that he was interviewed, so there is at least one, but Graham wasn't.

It was suggested that **skatepark users** could contribute video edits of themselves explaining why the project was important via Youtube. **Mark** will look at setting up a channel for these to be uploaded to.

Everyone needs to think about things that we can do to raise funds at Marple Carnival including raffle prizes, sponsorship and competitions. **Mark** will get in touch with Richard Noble to see if he is still interested in helping.

Richard still needs to follow-up his earlier discussions with Street Lighting.

8.0 Next Meeting

Thursday 29 May 2014 6.30pm at Marple Library.