

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 12th June 2017
Marple Library**

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

1.0 Apologies: Adrian Ellis, Lorraine Thompson, Cllrs. Allan, Abell & Finnie.

2.0 Minutes of the AGM: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Better Football Provision

Additional Goalposts

The new goals donated by Greenspace have been installed by Bernard and Mark on the space behind the children's play areas. Costs were £32 for 8 bags of postcrete (3 left over will be used on the skatepark benches).

Greenspace will remove the old goalpost and soil and seed the damaged area.

Long-term improvements

We now have a scheme from Canvas Spaces for the upper level of the skatepark plus the upgrade of the basketball court to a MUGA (Multi-User Games) Facility.

Budget costs are £35k for the skatepark phase II and £35k for the MUGA.

The proposals have been put to Greenspace and they were asked to confirm that they would support the project and if there is any money available in commuted sums in order to provide match-funding in a similar way as the main skatepark project.

Greenspace has confirmed that they will support external bids for funding but at the moment the way that "Formal Sports Commuted Sums" are allocated is changing and they are working to agree a final process for this with the Executive Councillor.

This means that the project can be considered for further Formal Sports Commuted Sums investment when this process is complete but at this stage it would not be guaranteed, as the project will have to be considered alongside other investment needs for sports facilities in the area and across the borough.

This is disappointing as it places us a bit in limbo, when we wanted to press on. It is understood that the process will take another couple of months, so in the meantime we will seek the support of local councillors and Life Leisure.

A recent check on the park's postcode on the Veolia web site shows that once again we are outside of the eligible area, when a couple of weeks ago we were inside.

Initial advice from Greenspace is that the skatepark extension would need planning permission. However, after further discussion Mark has asked Richard to speak with the planners as there would be no change to the existing footprint of the skatepark.

3.2 Fencing of Bowling Green and other works by same contractor

Work is now in progress. There is a section of the fence that will be delayed due to a bird's nest in the hedge, so the contractor will come back to do this. Apart from that, completion is expected in around 3 weeks.

The contractor will relocate the 3 benches to the area near to the Midnight sculpture. There will be a new tarmac access footpath to the benches from the main path. The last remaining ground sculpture will be removed.

The contractor will install the new double bin at the skatepark and look at the practicality of re-installing the one removed elsewhere. We have asked for the double bin to be installed before the carnival. *(PMN: this was achieved.)*

The contractor will also carry out the soiling and seeding of the landscape around the skatepark after the carnival. There will be further work in the winter when some trees and shrubs will be planted to provide a level of screening for canal-side properties.

3.3 Play Areas and Play Equipment

Infants Play Area Gates

As advised last month, the gates are delivered. Richard is now trying to get firm dates for installation from SSK, which seems to be proving a bit of a challenge!

3.4 Park Attendant

As agreed during discussions at a previous meeting, Mark has advised Cllr Allan that the group believe the only satisfactory solution to this matter now is for the sum of money that was left in the budget to accommodate keeping the full-time attendant be identified and recovered from SSK so that it can be reinvested in the park.

Mark will ask Cllr Allan if this has been passed onto Greenspace management.

3.5 Park Benches

Terry presented an invoice to cover our donation of £25 to David Lewis for the repairs and transportation of the refurbished picnic bench and this was paid at the meeting.

Replacement slats for the 3 Woodville benches are due any time now and we are waiting for an update from the supplier. *(PMN: refurbishments are now completed).*

There is a lot of maintenance work to catch-up with on other park benches.

3.6 Town Centre Benches

The risk assessment has been updated and Task Days for working on the benches submitted and approved. We are covered for working until 31 October 2017.

The potential sponsor for the last bench on Market Street has been contacted several times with no response yet. We may put a notice on the bench seeking a sponsor.

The potential sponsor for the first bench on the Hollins has also been contacted and a response is awaited. *(PMN: The McInnes Partnership has confirmed and paid.)*

We also need to treat benches refurbished last year and clear weeds from under.

3.7 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

We no longer need replacement limbs for the log seating as the benches from the bowling green will be relocated to this area. Mark will let David Myers know about this and follow up on discussions about the longer-term replacement of Midnight.

Painting of the bowling pavilion woodwork and metalwork will follow on from the bowling green fence installation.

Patrick has painted the chains at the park entrances.

Patrick has emailed councillors about the stolen stone that is missing from around the benches near to the entrance of the park and asked for repairs to be progressed.

Patrick has also emailed councillors about having the trees along Station Road crown lifted as branches are hanging down so far that they obstruct the footpath.

3.8 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

£139.88 has been received via Local Giving since the last meeting.

The team Extreme event at Marple Carnival is going ahead. The cost is £2,175+VAT, which includes £100+VAT for prizes for some of the competitions (Canvas Spaces are providing prizes for the skateboard competition). The event will include three demos from four professional riders plus competitions in up to four disciplines. We have made a special request for at least one of the professionals to be female to help encourage more girls that they can use the skatepark too.

The council will place the order to save us paying the VAT. It will be paid for by a grant of £800 from Marple Area Committee with the balance from our own funds.

We are also seeking to boost funds with banner sponsorship from local businesses during the event. Di Jackson is working on this with Mark and £230 has been raised so far. However, it has been agreed to share this income 50-50 with Marple Carnival Committee as they are struggling for funds this year. A banner will also be displayed thanking Marple Area Committee for their support (costing £25).

Set-up will be from approximately 8.30am and dismantling around 4.30pm. Joyce, Mick, Lorraine, Malcolm, Neil, Gill and Mark will help at various times during the day.

We will be selling plants and handmade cards to raise extra funds too.

First demonstration starts at approximately 10.30am.

Outstanding things to do:

Steel benches (FoMMP):

These have been top-coated and stencilled to match the skatepark and will be installed tomorrow. *(PMN: Benches were installed with the help of GT Landscapes and Construction Ltd on the evening of Tuesday 13th June.)*

Blockwork, screed to old quarter-pipe (council) / painting (FoMMP):

The council's contractor completed the blockwork and screeding. Gill, Bernard and Mark did the painting / stencilling. An extra tin of green paint was needed (cost £30).

Astroturf in difficult to mow locations (council):

The council seems to be having second thoughts on this due to funding availability.

Paint vertical sections on old ramps to match new (FoMMP):

This will be done during the coming week if weather permits. *(PMN: Completed).*

Landscaping / topsoil and seeding (council / FoMMP):

See item 3.2 – council's contractor will do this after carnival. A second stage to plant screening shrubs and trees will be organised for the winter.

Repairs / tarmac to pathways (council):

Work completed in good time for carnival as requested. However, the contractor has not done the full scope at the park entrance and will be called back to complete.

New bins (council):

See item 3.2 *(PMN: Double bin installed. We await a verdict on the bin removed.)*

3.9 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

Burt Morris was added on 7 June. John William Hallworth is due tomorrow and Harold Carver Barlow on Sunday 18 June.

Richard Booker has provided a contact who may be able to help with the development of ideas for creating a permanent display.

War Memorial Registration and Survey Workshop

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

3.10 Bee Friendly Plants and Shrubs

An extra £10.45 was spent on Rootgrow Gel for the bare root Hawthorn.

Purchases to date total £406 and all items have been planted in the park.

The Hawthorn and Berberis hedge around the war memorial beds has taken really well and all but one Hawthorn is now showing signs of buds.

We have another £93 to spend but we have used up all of the grant from Stockport Hydro (£200) so we can now provide them with a full update.

(PMN: a report, links to photographs and a copy of receipts and invoices have been sent to Stockport Hydro for their review.)

3.11 Task Days

Last Task Day – 13, 23, 27 May and 10 June 2017

Lots of Bee Friendly planting, cleaning up and then installation of goalposts, painting of quarter-pipe, work on flowerbeds and borders and French Boules court weeded.

10 June task day was cancelled due to poor weather. An ad-hoc task day on Sunday 11th caught up with weeding, band room garden maintenance and litter-picking.

Next Task Day – 24 June 2017

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

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments

Everything is up-to-date and we are now covered until 31 December 2017.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2017

24 June, 15 & 29 July, 12 & 26 August, 16 & 30 September, 14 & 28 October, 11 & 25 November, 30 December.

Training

We await news of any further dates for training.

Dates are also still awaited for Mick and Bob to do the power-tools training.

Power Tools

There has been a problem with the plastic fuel pipe perishing on the combined hedge-trimmer and strimmer, which is now two years old. Mark has purchased some replacement pipe from Harrods (£3) and will carry out a repair.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Last statement on 22 May shows a balance of £5,701.62.

Income since last meeting includes:

£439.00	Treasure Hunt (£289 raffle + £150 sponsorship) grand total is £1,450.
£139.88	Local Giving.
£800.00	Marple Area Committee.
£230.00	Carnival banner scheme.
£15.00	Bandroom SO.
£139.80	Collected in park.

Expenditure since last meeting:

£36.00	Local Giving annual subscription.
£10.45	Rootgrow Gel.
£5.90	Double-sided tape for WWI display.
£39.95	Spray paints for skatepark stencilling.
£45.62	Grey gloss paint for skatepark benches.
£31.68	8 bags of postcrete for goalposts.
£5.45	Ladies gardening gloves.
£7.70	Filler for skatepark ramps.
£195.00	Public Liability Insurance.
£29.96	Paint for skatepark ramps.
£36.64	8 more bags of postcrete for skatepark benches.

Public Liability Insurance has been reduced by around £100 for 2017/18 by removing skatepark activities and reducing expected annual income.

Committed funds are: Skatepark £2,474, WWI Display £122, Town Centre Benches £28, Bee Friendly Plants £93, Bench Refurbishments £1,423 and Marple Carnival share of banner income £115. This leaves a current working balance of £1,488.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Naming of driveway into the park

An email reminder has been sent to Cllr Abell.

5.2 Local Giving Small Charity Week

There's an opportunity to double donations up to £25 via Local Giving on 22 June.
(Post Meeting Note: £231 was raised via donations on the day.)

5.2 Mellor Mill Day 3 September

It was agreed not to attend the Mellor Mill Day this year but we will ask Friends of Cromwell Avenue Park if they would like to attend in our place.

5.4 Food and Drink Day (date not known yet)

It was agreed to have a break from fund-raising at the Food and Drink Day this year.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 14 August 2017 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2017/18 (library booked):

14 August, 11 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December 2017,
8 January 2018, 12 February, 12 March, 9 April, 14 May, 11 June 2018.