

Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 12th October 2009
Marple Library

Present: Micaela Wood, Bob Wilson, Adrian Ellis, Peter Bardsley, Patrick O'Herlihy, Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Jonathan Long.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising.

3.1 Basketball Court

Adrian advised that this year's funding for resurfacing of tennis and basketball courts has been spent, so there is none available for our court. It should be added to the list requesting funding next year, which needs to be submitted by 21 October.

3.2 Roundabout in Infants Play Area

At the last meeting in July it was anticipated that an order would be placed for a replacement roundabout using a conventional spindle and bearing system by the autumn. Adrian will seek an update from Jonathan / Gareth of Playground Maintenance as it is now autumn.

3.3 Apple & Pear Sculptures

The apple and pear sculptures were successfully installed during the July Task Day. They now need a protective coating before the winter sets in.

Mark will seek the advice of Andrew Frost on what to use.

3.4 Boules Court.

Interpretation

Mark advised that the O₂ Application to cover the interpretation board was not successful. However, an order was placed that can be covered by existing funds if necessary and the board was delivered today.

The cost is £790 + VAT but as the order was placed through the council the VAT will not need to be paid. The supplier will now invoice the council, who will in turn issue an invoice to the Friends.

The new board has a different foundation design to the previous ones purchased and was much cheaper. It is hoped that this design will prove to be satisfactory and can be used again in the future.

Mark asked if the board could be installed during the next task day but Adrian was unsure, as there is an overtime ban due to a shortage of funds. The Parks Team may have to install it during normal hours, in which case a location will need to be agreed first. Adrian will confirm if this is the case.

Patrick took away the proof of the board design to see if the District Partnership would be prepared to make a contribution towards the cost.

Mark will remind Marple Business Forum that they had agreed to make a contribution toward the cost of the board too.

Grass under new seats

Mark reiterated the need to keep the grass trimmed under the new seats, as they were looking untidy again. Adrian reminded Bob that this was now on the cutting list and should be done regularly.

Graffiti on Mr. Louth's Seat

Mark reported that graffiti was discovered on the seat dedicated to Mr. Louth's wife during the September task day. Lettering had been cut deeply into the wooden slat beneath the commemorative plaque and then filled in with ink – a despicable act of vandalism.

The damaged slat was removed during the task day and has since been repaired and refitted by Terry Wood. He has done a fantastic job and there is no trace of the damage. Mark has kept Mr. Louth informed and he has expressed his thanks for the prompt repair.

It was agreed that Terry should purchase some of the Cuprinol stain that he used on the repaired slat so that the all three Boules Court benches plus Jim Heald's one can be given a coat during the next task day.

3.5 War Memorial

Memorial Rockery Scheme

Bob advised that additional plants, including the poppies requested by the group, have been planted in the memorial beds during the last couple of weeks with the help of students from Cheadle and Marple College. The poppies will not flower until next year.

Chain link fence

Mark has priced up the cost of 43m of chain link fence from the supplier identified by Adrian and it comes to £820 +VAT. As this is for wooden posts it was agreed that it seemed rather expensive and further investigation is needed into alternative options.

Danny Winter Bench

The group commended the family of Danny Winter for the magnificent granite bench that they have had installed in the park in his memory.

Our support for this has also been recorded on the Friends' web site.

3.6 Improvements to the Park Entrance

Jonathan was going to develop plans for this in the autumn. Adrian will follow this up with him to see if he has made any progress or when he plans to start.

Patrick proposed to follow up getting the school involved in this at the next Governors' Meeting in November.

3.7 Task Days

Previous Task Day – 25 July 2009

The Apple and Pear sculptures were installed and the memorial beds were weeded.

Previous Task Day – 29 August 2009

More weeding of the memorial beds, Rose bed pruned and tidied and the Merchant Navy Day flag was raised.

Previous Task Day – 25 September 2009

Repaired Breathing Places panel, cleared circular flowerbed, tidied around council offices and removed vandalised slat on bench for repair.

Next Task Day – 31 October 2009

2,000 Bluebell bulbs have been ordered for planting by the Beaver Scouts during the next task day. Adrian will follow up the order with Allan Wilson to confirm it will be available.

It is also proposed to treat the 3 boules court benches and Jim Heald's bench and possibly the Owl Sculpture if we have time and can determine the right treatment to apply.

Mark also identified that the Breathing Places panel needed a little more attention as the frame was slightly warped.

Mark will submit the parking request and send the task day email.

3.8 Bird Survey

Nothing new to report. Patrick will follow up with Ian Hilton.

3.9 Painting of Bowling Green Huts

Adrian will speak to Jonathan about supplying paint to allow the doors and woodwork of the Bowling Green huts to be painted by the group in the spring.

3.10 Senior Citizens' Bench

Towards the end of last year Patrick established that the Senior Citizens were interested in funding a bench that could be sited in the shade from where the bowls could be watched. He has followed this up but not received a response, so will speak to them again.

3.11 Science / Children's Feature

Patrick has been unable to ascertain where it was that he saw these features – it was not Lyme Park as he'd thought. He will endeavour to find further details when the opportunity arises.

3.12 Lock 17 Display

A ceremony was held to unveil the plaque dedicated to Gordon Mills on Sunday 20th September. It went very well and it was good to see this joint project with Marple Locks Heritage Society reach a satisfactory conclusion at last.

Patrick raised the issue of whose responsibility it was to maintain the planting of the display. Adrian confirmed that it was the council's and they were trying to establish a scheme that was natural and does not need annual replanting, although he did acknowledge that it needed further work.

It was agreed that the group would be happy to help with the maintenance as and when required and Mark suggested that the Locks Society would probably feel the same way too.

Patrick undertook to discuss the possibility of future planting costs being supported by Marple Business Forum and the District Partnership.

3.13 Green Flag Award Ceremony

The Green Flag presentation will be held at Vernon Park on 22nd October. Micaela will attend on behalf of the group.

3.14 Park Cottage/ Bandroom Proposals

The bands have now published a leaflet on-line that explains all about the project and the next steps they need to take.

Bob and Patrick both reported what they had recently heard about progress but as the information seemed to conflict it was agreed not to record anything in the minutes. Patrick will investigate further.

4.0 Fundraising Activities

The fund-raising tombola at the Marple Food and Drink Festival was a great success with a record amount of £453 being taken. In addition, £20 was raised from the sale of Gordon Mills videos and £12 commission from the sales of the Mellor Walks and Map booklet.

Mark has prepared a letter of thanks to the businesses that contributed prizes to the tombola and Micaela will distribute it.

4.1 Status of Funds

Current bank balance:	£2,421
Committed Funds:	£843 (Interpretation)
Working balance:	£1,631

There has been no expenditure since the last meeting, although an invoice for £790 is expected soon for the new Boules display panel.

Income since the last meeting includes the proceeds from the Food Festival mentioned earlier plus £6 commission from Marple Wine Club, £25 donated by Bob Wilson (his fee for a presentation about the park to Romiley Horticultural Society) and £50 from Marple Carnival Charities Committee, which gives an overall total of £566.

5.0 Monthly Park Report

Bob advised that the Wildflower Survey was now completed and passed a hand-written copy to Patrick who will arrange for it to be typed up. *(Copy appended at the end of these minutes.)*

Bob advised that he is concerned about the condition of the path and steps near to the bowling green. The wooden panels around the green also need painting and some of them replacing. As funding is tight he is worried that this would not happen.

With reference to this Adrian advised that he would be attending a budget review meeting with Jonathan soon and they would be discussing how much funding was available and how they could make savings. Adrian also advised that this could have an impact on his being able to order tools for use by the group in the park, as discussed previously. The impact on the park should be clearer by the next meeting.

Bob advised that his current apprentice would be leaving soon after finishing his 2-year apprenticeship but two new ones will be starting next week. One of these will be under a "corporate parenting" scheme.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Funding of Projects by the District Partnership

Following discussions at the last meeting Mark has submitted a list of suggestions and questions to Patrick with regard to the sort of projects that may be funded by the District Partnership.

Unfortunately Brian Nash has been taken ill recently and therefore it may be a while before Patrick can discuss this with him but it will be covered in due course.

In the meantime it was agreed that Patrick would send a get-well card to Brian on behalf of the group and let us know how he is getting on.

6.2 Christmas Dinner

Options for Christmas Dinner / Lunch were discussed and a date of Saturday 5th December was agreed as best suited to everyone. Micaela will investigate the suggestion of The Marple House as a venue.

6.3 Access to Co-Op

Micaela raised the issue of the access from the Co-Op to the park being both poorly lit and slippery due to algae growth on the surfaces. Patrick said he would raise these matters with the manager, who he knew.

6.4 Corner of Garth Road

Patrick raised the issue of the “unofficial” entrance to the park at the corner of Garth Road, which has been opened up by pedestrians moving the fence out of the way. He felt that it either needs to be fenced up again, or adopted as a proper entrance. Adrian advised that if it was adopted as a formal entrance to the park then it would have to meet specific criteria, which he felt couldn’t be satisfied at this location. He will therefore look at reinstating the fence and inspecting it regularly.

7.0 Date of next Meeting:

Monday 9th November 2009 at 6pm in Marple Library.

Marple Memorial Park - Wildflower **January – September 2009**

These species in no particular order, have been noted in flower each month.

Jan – Feb:

Nothing Found

March:

Several daisies,
Dandelions
Celandine
Silver birch catkins
Purple anemones – 1 clump, same as in flower beds.
Crocuses and daffodils, as planted.

April:

Cowslips
Daisies
Dandelions
Primrose
Silver birch catkins
Ribwort plantain
Hairy bittercress
Chickweed
Lilac-flowered ivy-leaves speedwell
Green alkanet
Red campion
Daffodils
Narcissus

May:

Cow Parsley
Dandelions
Cuckoo flower (lady’s smock)
Red campion
Ribwort plantain
Cowslips

Ivy-leaved speedwell
Rush (not sure which type)
Spanish bluebells
English bluebells (few)
Creeping buttercup
Groundsel
Shepherds purse garlic mustard
Daisies (not in long grass)

June:

White clover
Red clover
Nettles (in flower)
Meadow buttercup
Creeping buttercup
Dandelion
Herb bennet
Sorrel
Cleavers
Cow parsley
Field speedwell
Hoary plantain
Bramble
Broad-leaved dock
Foxglove

July:

Purple loosestrife
White clover
Red campion
Hedge woundwort
Nipplewort
Bramble
Ragwort
Bindweed
Betony

August:

Purple loosestrife
Persicaria
Redshank
Pineapple weed
Hedge woundwort

September:

Hedge Woundwort
Purple loosestrife

The nettles, brambles and long grass have overwhelmed many of the flowering plants and also made the paths difficult. We haven't noted the different grasses that flowered or any trees other than the silver birch.