

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 8 October 2018
Marple Library**

Present: Joyce Reed, Mick Thompson, Lorraine Thompson, Bob Wilson, Micaela Wood, Cllr. Malcolm Allan, Richard Wood (part time), Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Terry Wood, Patrick O'Herlihy.

2.0 Minutes of last meeting: Agreed.

2.1 Cub Scouts: Local Scout leader Richard Wood attended the meeting to ask if it would be possible for Marple Cubs to join in with a Friends of the Park task day in order to help them achieve their Community Projects badge. Our Safeguarding Policy requires that all volunteers under 18 are accompanied by a responsible adult, carer or suitably DBS checked supervisor. It was therefore agreed that we would welcome the cubs providing they could be supervised by qualified Scout Leaders. Richard and Mark will discuss options for dates and other details via email. *(PMN: Scout Leaders will bring Cubs to our 27 October task day. Greenspace has been notified and have asked for copies of the Scouts' insurance and risk assessments for their records.)*

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Teen Area / Skatepark Phase II / MUGA

There is still no notification of the planning decision that we were promised by the end of September. This has been chased up again and we are now being promised that a decision will be published by the end of this week. *(Post Meeting Note: a decision to grant was published on the Stockport Planning Portal on Wednesday 17th October.)*

An updated price has been received from Canvas. Richard Booker has gone back to them with comments and queries. Responses have been promised for this week. The council's procurement team have still to approve a single tender action.

We have received 3D visuals from Canvas and will be able use these once we are in a position to make an announcement about the planning decision.

Richard is off for 5 weeks after this week and has said that he will put the MUGA element of the project out to tender on his return. This means we are unlikely to know the final costs of the project until just before or even after Christmas.

Funding is in place for the scheme, although we do not know for sure that we have enough until final prices are obtained for both the skatepark works and the MUGA. It is possible some additional fund-raising and / or grant applications will be required.

Phase II has been frustratingly slow so far and it looks like this is to continue.

3.2 Bowling Green

New door on tool store: The door has been installed but not painted yet. This has been chased up to request it is done as soon as possible due to the weather. *(PMN: painting of the door and frame has now been completed).*

Bricking up of bowling hut window: The redundant window at the end of the bowling hut has been bricked up but the cracks in the gable end that were identified during the engineer's inspection have not been re-pointed as expected. We have asked for a return visit for this to be done but haven't had a response yet.

Keys: New keys have been cut for the tool store at a cost of £15.75. The contractor has retained a key for access for painting and we need this back once completed.

Gutters on Bowling Pavilion: These have been repaired at last but we are not certain that the gutter slopes to the drainpipe. We will check when it rains.

3.3 Play Areas and Play Equipment

New equipment: The Ocean See-Saw has been installed. We have received an invoice for our contribution of £3,554 and a cheque has been signed and posted.

The total cost was £5,570 and this was made up of: £1,702 from commuted sums, £2,154 from the Treasure Hunt, £1,000 from Auto Trader Community Fund, £100 donated by the Marple Website, £300 from our reserves and £314 from the council.

(Post Meeting Note: A completion report has been submitted to Forever Manchester.)

3.4 Planting for 100th Anniversary of Votes for Women

The bed is still looking great and the artwork will be left until the end of the year.

3.5 Park Benches

Park benches general: Maintenance ongoing.

Town Centre benches: We need to find time to treat the TC benches before the end of October when our current Task Day application expires. *(Post Meeting Note: All 14 Town Centre benches have now been re-treated ready for winter.)*

Hard-standings for benches: Just one skatepark bench hard-standing still to do.

Visit to Queen's Park Rochdale: Rescheduled to Sunday 14th October.

Policy for replacement of existing commemorative benches:

Terry has made some mounting boards for the notices on the three commemorative benches along the pathway backing onto the bowling green hedge and the notice provided by the council has now been posted on them. The reason for this is that the council has developed a new policy, which specifies when seeking to replace existing commemorative benches there must be a search for up to 12 months to try and find the original donors to give them the opportunity to sponsor a replacement.

We are not in a great rush to replace these benches but as we have repaired them a number of times we are concerned that we will reach a point in the not too distant future when we can no longer repair them successfully. Seeking the original donors now, while they are still serviceable, will give us the flexibility of being able to replace them whenever the need arises, either with agreement and support of the original donors, or by finding sponsors for new commemorative benches.

3.6 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

Replacement of Midnight: We removed a large section of the sculpture that was very unsound during a recent task day. We now wait for Myers Tree Care to come up with a suitable piece of timber for a replacement during the course of their works.

Info board near to Lock 10: HB Printing has quoted £56+VAT for vinyl printed on Dibond (the same as the timeline) or on plastic (Foamex) for £40+VAT. The next step is to create some new artwork and refurbish the lectern frame.

Painting of Pavilion Building: Painting under the canopy is deferred until next year.

Breathing Places reading circle: We are still waiting for Greenspace to obtain a price for a contractor to resurface the reading circle.

Painting of Infants Play area fence: Subject to available time and weather but it is unlikely that we will get much more painting done this year. We will pick up the balance of this task again in 2019.

Possible refurbishment of Park Toilets: We are still awaiting designs and options from the council. Mark will chase this up again towards the end of the month.

3.7 Skatepark Development Project

Relocation of CCTV camera: As mentioned last month, the site visit to discuss tarmac revealed that the same two trees that need work in order for the CCTV to function will need to be crown-lifting to provide access for construction traffic under them for the skatepark phase II works. So this work will serve a double-purpose.

Cllr. Allan will follow this up with the Greenspace Team.

(Post Meeting Note: During our 13 October task day a crack was spotted in a large limb on one of these trees. We were concerned that it may be dangerous in high winds, so a report and photos have been sent to Greenspace's Tree Officer).

3.8 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration: Richard Speakman, Walter Woodcock, James Kershaw and Raymond Pickford MM have been added to the time-line since the last meeting.

High Lane men: St Thomas Church, High Lane, have asked if they can use our display material for the 30 men named on the High Lane memorial. This was agreed and they have been asked for a list of names so that the relevant cards can be provided. *(PMN: the cards have been provided electronically to the church).*

Permanent display: The 6th and final main panel has been printed by HB Printing and is awaiting mounting. A 7th panel of A2 size giving the background story and acknowledgements for the time-line has been designed and a proof approved. This may cost extra as it wasn't covered by the original quote and a price is awaited.

It is planned to install the final panel(s) on or shortly after 1st November 2018.

Street Poppies: The Poppy Appeal Team has advised that the 20 Street Poppies for the park are ready and they have asked if we can put them on the park lampposts over the weekend of 20/21 October. *(PMN: Street Poppies are now erected).*

Tarmac to paths near War Memorial and Offices: Great news is that Marple Area Committee approved the application for £11,600 of funding from their Highways budget to enable tarmacking of the paths around the war memorial and offices. The contractor is TLC (Highways) and they have confirmed that it can be done in good time for the Remembrance Service.

Repairs to War Memorial: The council has some funding to do repairs to war memorials this year and Mark has met with Jackie Budd to discuss the work planned for ours. This will include repairs / re-pointing to the memorial slabs and steps and painting of the railings. The memorial has been cleaned already and the remaining work is expected to be complete before the end of October.

Knitted Poppies: These will probably be fixed on or around 10th November and taken down on the 12th as we wish to use them as part of the Christmas Tree display too.

Wreath: It was agreed that Terry would lay the wreath on behalf of the group. The wreath has been ordered and will be ready for collection on Saturday 27 October.

Flags: It was agreed to purchase more commemorative flags for the flagpoles.

3.9 Task Days

Last Task Days – 15 September 2018

We worked mainly on the Office beds and on paving slabs to benches.

Ad-hoc Task Days:

Patrick has been doing extra task days to paint benches and the Lock 17 Gates on Oldknow Road. Gill has also been working on the Lock 17 flowerbed.

Next Task Days – 13, 27 October & 10 November 2018

Parking has been requested, emails will be sent out when due.

Focus will mainly be on preparations for Remembrance.

Task Day Registration / Risk Assessments

Everything is up-to-date and covered until 31 December 2018.

Saturday Task Days in 2018: 13, 27 October, 10, 24 November & 29 December.

Training / Power Tools: No change.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

The last statement dated 21 September showed a balance of £7,892.57.

Income since last meeting:

£76.68 Local Giving.
£15.00 Marple Bands standing order.

Expenditure since last meeting:

£3,554.00 Ocean See-Saw.

Pending expenses:

£15.75 Keys for tool store.
£3.38 Bedding Plants
? White Hammerite (awaiting receipts from Patrick)

Commitments are £193 for last time-line panel, leaving a working balance of £4,146.

New bank account: We have an appointment with Barclays Bank in Stockport on Tuesday 16 October to open a new account (at the Marple branch). Mick, Micaela and Mark will attend. ID and address confirmation will be needed.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Lock 11 Repairs

Mark met with Wayne and CRT on Wednesday 12 September. The compound area has been firmed up and it looks like access will be across the Garth Road shrub bed. Shrubs will be removed and replanted or replaced. The memorial trees are to be left undisturbed. We clarified the mature Silver Birch that we wish to keep and that seems to be acceptable. At least one, possibly two, other large Silver Birch will need to be removed and replacement trees planted after the works. Other smaller trees will be root-balled and replanted or replaced after the works are completed.

Subject to permissions, the works are expected to start in November.

Target completion is by Easter 2019.

5.2 St Martin's Christmas Tree Festival

We will take part this year. Confirmation form has been sent to the organisers.

5.3 Fly Tipping

Fly-tipping was discovered in the park during a litter pick on the last task day.

Waste was found in the park next to the fence of a garden on Kingfisher Mews. This included garden waste, bags of rubbish and the residue of burnt waste. An incinerator was spotted in the garden adjoining the park on the other side of the fence. It would be very difficult for anyone to place this rubbish here without access to that garden.

Another property further along also appears to have been putting trimmings from their conifers over their fence into the park.

This was reported to Cllr. Allan during his surgery in the library on the day. Cllr. Allan followed this up with Greenspace, who passed it onto the relevant council team.

Council Officers visited the park to see the rubbish and knocked on the door of the adjacent property. The occupiers denied responsibility. The council has sent an official letter to all of the properties on the row of houses backing onto the park and arranged for TLC to remove the rubbish.

We are told that it is difficult to prosecute or fine unless they can make a definite connection to the offenders, which in these circumstances is very disappointing.

It is hoped that the warning letters will stop this fly-tipping happening again but we will monitor the situation closely to ensure our park is not abused in this way again.

5.4 York stone stolen again

York stone has been stolen again from around the benches near the entrance to the park. We think it was last Wednesday or Thursday. This is very frustrating after how long it took to get this resolved last time, and also the problems with the quality of the work done when the stone was eventually replaced.

We have recommended (again) that the remaining stone is reclaimed by the council and the whole area tarmacked, as it is not an attractive feature anyway. The stone would be better re-used in an area that is much harder to steal from.

The area is currently barriered off again and we have asked for restorative works to be done before the Remembrance Service as we want the park looking its best.

5.5 Kerbs /setts around the Bowling Green fence

It was noticed by Bernard during the last task day that many of the setts along the new fence around the bowling green have come loose. It is little more than a year since this was installed and we don't believe this should have happened. We have reported it to Greenspace and asked them to bring the contractor back to deal with it.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 12 November 2018 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2018/19 (library booked):

12 November, 10 December, 14 January 2019, 11 February, 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June 2019.