

**Friends of Marple Memorial Park Meeting
Monday 12th September 2016
Marple Library**

Present: Joyce Reed, Terry Wood, Bob Wilson, Cllr. Malcolm Allan (part time), Mark Whittaker.

1.0 Apologies: Micaela Wood, Lorraine Thompson, Mick Thompson, Patrick O'Herlihy, Adrian Ellis.

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 ASB / CCTV

Fencing / gating of the WWI Bowling Pavilion

We still await an invoice for our contribution to this work from Greenspace.

Consultation on better Football Provision

Cllr. Allan continues to chase this but progress is slow due to staffing shortages in Greenspace. The joint chairs of Marple Area Committee have agreed to a short and simple consultation that would be appropriate to address the matter.

Cllr Allan is hoping for more progress before the next AC on 28 September. He will seek to ensure that the group is consulted as part of the process.

Possible fencing of Bowling Green

After the last meeting Mark was contacted by Cllr Sheila Bailey concerning the possibility of funding being available for fencing of several Bowling Greens in the borough that have been suffering from antisocial behaviour and misuse. Ours is a potential candidate for this funding. Mark expressed an interest in finding out more and Cllr Bailey asked the Greenspace Team to develop some proposals for discussion.

A draft proposal was received from Richard Booker on 22 August. This was reviewed with Bowling Club Secretary Ken Else on 27 August and a site meeting then held with Richard on 30 August to pass on our combined comments on the scheme.

The scheme proposed to fence-off the three benches on the brow facing the green, preventing their public use. This was considered unacceptable and it was suggested that if the scheme were to go ahead then the fence must run around the outer edge of the bowling green pathway, leaving the benches available for normal public use.

Other main comments on the scheme passed to Richard were:

It would be better with a gate between the Mess Room and the Bowlers Hut.

A gate would also be of benefit near our lock-up store and the fence-line changed.

The same type of fencing as around the Basketball Court should be considered as an alternative to railings, as it is less intrusive and easier to see through.

The two large bench seats inside the bowling area are well used by the public at all times. If the scheme goes ahead these should be relocated outside of the fenced area so that access to them is not restricted. The Bowlers suggested this and are OK with it as they would be able to put their folding chairs in the spaces currently occupied by the seats during their matches.

An annotated plan of the draft scheme was distributed and discussed in more detail. Mick and Lorraine Thompson were unable to attend but an email explaining their objections to the fencing of the green was also distributed and discussed.

The general consensus of those present was that in an ideal world fencing of the green would not be needed but it will be of benefit to combat the ongoing misuse of the green by youths playing football on it, despite all the efforts made to date.

There was actually a group of youths playing football on the green while the meeting was taking place. (*Post Meeting Note: on leaving the meeting a scooter was also seen being ridden in and out of the area too. Both matters were reported via the call line.*)

It must also be a key consideration that funding is very unlikely to be available again if the opportunity is not taken up at this time.

It was agreed that we should wait until after the revised scheme is published before deciding our final position on this. It is also crucial that the Bowling Club has a full input into the decision as it probably effects them more than it does us.

Richard has agreed to issue the revised scheme to us and the Bowlers at the same time. Once this is available we can consider the matter further.

3.2 Play Areas and Play Equipment

The group's conclusion that we should proceed with the options to have a new double-bay of toddler swings (approx £8,000) plus the ship-style toddler unit (approx £4,500) were conveyed to Richard Booker on 11 August.

Richard was happy to proceed with this and advised that the work will be tendered alongside five other small play area improvement projects in the borough to make it more cost effective. He anticipated tenders being issued by end of August with returns by end of September, when they should be in position to place an order. At this point a firm timescale for installation should be available.

Richard provided a more recent update for the meeting to say that tenders have not gone out yet as one of the scheme is still being worked on. He is hoping to send it out no later than week commencing 19 September with a shortened tender period so that an order can be placed by mid October.

3.3 Park Attendant

Cllr Allan has confirmed that the Executive decision to maintain the budget for a full time attendant was agreed at the Annual Budget meeting in March and was minuted.

He is seeking further information on:

- What has happened to that money?
- It is not being spent on a full time attendant and the proposed cuts included our park being maintained by a roving teams, as it is now. So it could be construed that the money is possibly being spent in a completely different way to how the Executive decided. So, how and where is it the money being spent?

3.4 Park Benches

General Bench Maintenance

A picnic bench has been damaged and later pulled out by vandals. The council asked if we were able to repair it and Terry has since taken it off-site. He advised that it is now ready to be returned and reinstalled, he just needs to arrange suitable transportation when he is back at work.

Town Centre Benches

Plaques have been fitted to the Gould-Martin sponsored bench and it has had a final coats of preservative. The family is very pleased.

Marple Civic Society has paid £160 sponsorship for a bench refurbishment and this one has been fully completed including plaque. The Society is pleased too.

Refurbishment of the bench sponsored by Sew-In has also been completed. The £160 donation has been received and the plaque can be ordered when wording is agreed.

Refurbishment of a bench sponsored by the Bradshaw family has started. They have donated £200 and their plaque will feature a small family crest as well as their name. They have chosen the one that the Nativity sculpture is fitted to at Christmas.

The Civic Society and Bradshaw plaques have been purchased at a cost of £44.40 and £56.39 respectively, so we can now transfer a further £250 to skatepark funds.

We've had interest from The Samuel Oldknow, Ardek Ltd and SCV Lighting and Electrical in sponsorship of more benches. Details are still to be finalised.

3.5 Park Buildings and Infrastructure

No changes. Myers Tree Care is on the lookout for replacement logs and a suitable trunk for the longer-term replacement of Midnight.

3.6 Skatepark Development Project

Latest Skatepark Project News

£450 of income has been transferred from bench refurbishments to date.

£124 of miscellaneous donations have been received via Local Giving.

£56 has been received from regular donors via Local Giving.

£27.32 has been received via Easy Fundraising.

A £100 donation has been received from The Samuel Oldknow.

Canvas has revalidated the price originally tendered in June 2014. Unfortunately in 2 years the costs have increased to around £111k for the same scope of work. Mark and Jane have met with Canvas to discuss this and they are now working on revisions to the scheme to get it back to within the £100k budget. It is expected to have detailed discussions with them and the Project Team in the next couple of weeks.

Skatepark Funding Update:

Target:	£100,000	
Community Funding:	£42,469	(growth of £758 since last meeting).
With match funding:	£84,937	
Balance needed:	£15,063	(reduced by £1,516 since last meeting).
We need to raise:	£7,531	(50% of balance).

Fund Raising Events:

Photography Exhibition at Samuel Oldknow's

Mark has sold a third canvas raising another £30 and Lewis has sold two photos also raising £30 (these sums are not in the figures above at this stage). As mentioned above, The Samuel Oldknow's owners have also made a donation of £100.

Mellor Mill Fact and Fun Day – Sunday 4 September

A quieter day than last year due mainly to the weather, but very enjoyable. We raised £47.95 (compared to £74 last year) and will donate 10% (£5) to friends of Our Valley, leaving £43 to add to the Skatepark funds (not in figures yet).

Food and Drink Day – Saturday 17 September

We will be on Derby Way. It is free of charge but we have to provide our own gazebos (charges are £79 and we've been advised it is only food stalls on Market Street).

A stall rota has been distributed and we will set-up from around 8am.

(Post Meeting Note: £521.65 was raised during a great day.)

Marple Soup – Thursday 22 September

Groups have been invited to pitch their projects at a Crowd Funding community event at All Saints' Church. Entry is suggested at £5 ahead including a bowl of soup.

Jay Saenz from the Skatepark Project Team is going to pitch for us. If anyone is free to attend please go along to support him at 7pm.

Art Auction – Friday 14 October

The date has now been set for Friday 14 October and Marple Conservative Club on Church Lane is booked. There will be a £30 fee.

We will be setting up from 10am, viewing from 6pm, bar open at 7pm and auctions starts at 7.30pm. We have 45 lots at the moment and are seeking more.

We will need help with set-up during the day and during the auction itself. Mark will send out an email appealing for volunteers.

We have posters and flyers being printed by the council to promote the event.

A professional comedian will run the auction and entertainment for the interval and after the auction is being arranged.

Marple Hall School did some skatepark photography during Enrichment Week and were suggesting they could be sold to raise funds. They have been contacted about the auction and hopefully the photos can be included as extra lots.

Mellor Art Society and Silk 'n' Threads have expressed an interest in contributing.

Marple Co-Op is going to provide a hamper to raffle on the night.

Christmas Collections at Asda 15 to 17 December

Malcolm has met with Simon, the new manager at Asda, and promoted our activities to him. Mark has spoken to him on the phone and confirmed that our booking in December will be honoured. An appointment has also been made to go in and have a chat with Simon and introduce ourselves to him on Wednesday 14 August.

The branded hi-vis tabards that we will need for the collections have been ordered and we should have them in time for use at the Food and Drink Festival too. The cost was £111.33 for 10 and this expenditure will be allocated to the Equity Funding budget.

3.6 World War I Centenary Commemorations

Timeline Commemoration

Joe Bennett, Basil Carver and Ernie Trust were added in August. Next to go on are Joe Burrell and Arthur Hoole on 25 September.

WW2 Plaque

The WW2 plaque and stone have been installed in the park with the help of GT Landscapes and Construction with materials provided by Adrian Ellis.

A photo-shoot was done with Julie Clay, the lady who donated the plaque, and Hilary Atkinson from Marple Local History Society. Arthur Procter took the photos and an article was featured in the September issue of the Marple Review.

History Society member Ian Bradshaw generously donated £100 to the society, which has been used to cover all the costs of the project.

3.7 Task Days

Last Task Days – 13 and 27 August, 10 September 2016

Lost of work to flowerbeds, shrub beds and benches completed. Some work also done on Town Centre benches and the Bandroom Garden. We also had a couple of mini plant sales to raise a few extra pounds for the park.

Next Task Days – 24 September, 29 October and 26 November 2016

The above task days are registered and approved. It is proposed to have extra "Ad-hoc" task days on 15 October and 12 November too.

Mark will arrange parking and send out task day emails around a week in advance.

Saturday Task Days scheduled for 2016

Approved: 24 Sept, 29 Oct, 26 Nov and 26 December.

To register: All of 2017.

Ad-hoc Daily Task Days

Daily Task Days are approved on the council's system until 31 December 2016.

Task Days on 15 October and 12 November are now planned.

Town Centre Benches are covered until 31 October 2016.

We've carried out a number of task days to progress the bench refurbishments.

Risk Assessments / 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

Nothing new.

3.10 Equity Housing Grant

Recent purchases include: 2 pairs of Bahco Edge Shears and 1 pair of Bahco Lawn Shears at a cost of £105.74. Also 10 x hi-vis tabards with the group name on back and front at a cost of £111.33.

All of the £500 grant money has now been spent with a small overspend of £21.52 covered from our own unallocated funds. An end of grant report has been prepared ready for issue to Equity when they request it.

4.0 Funding - Status of Funds

Latest statement dated 22 August 2016 shows a bank balance of £45,891.52.

Income since last meeting includes:

£160.00 Marple Civic Society (bench sponsorship).
£200.00 Bradshaw family (bench sponsorship).
£27.32 Easy Fundraising.
£189.89 Local Giving.
£160.00 Sew-In (bench sponsorship).
£600.00 Marple Hall School.

Expenditure since last meeting includes:

£105.74 Shears (Equity).
£104.39 Plaques and screws.
£3.30 Screws and rawl plugs.
£7.12 Sweet prizes for Splat the Rat and Wheel of Fortune.

Income this year to date is now £15,828.

Spent year to date is £1,396.

Committed funds in account are: Skate Park £42,469, Pavilion Fencing £3,150, WWI Display £128 and Town Centre Benches £169.

This leaves a working balance of £228.

There is approximately £56 collected in the park still to pay into bank plus the £43 from Mellor Mill Day. These sums are not included in the above figures.

5.0 Any Other Business

5.1 Band Room Garden

The council has sprayed the paths inside garden for us. We are still awaiting a bank statement to confirm standing order set-up and first payment of £15 per month but understand that this has now been done.

5.2 War Memorial Listings

Marple Civic Society is holding a War Memorials registration and survey workshop on 14 October, which unfortunately clashes with our Art Auction set-up. They will be using the war memorials in the park as examples. Mark will try to attend the first half hour or so of the workshop to meet the organisers.

5.3 Christmas Social Event

During Mellor Mill Day 22 places were provisionally booked at Roman Lakes Tea Dance on Saturday 26 November. Tickets are £15 a head and 18 volunteers have paid. The remaining 4 places have been offered to the Allotment Association but will need to be confirmed quickly otherwise they will be released back to Roman Lakes.

6.0 Next Meeting

Monday 10 October 2016 at 6.15pm in Marple Library.

Future meeting dates scheduled for 2016/17 (library booked):

14 November and 12 December 2016.

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