

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Spencer Park  
Saturday Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 4p.m. Spencer Park**

1. **Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary) Helen Elias (Treasurer) , Tim Brooke, Fiona Pashazadeh, Esther Higden (Committee members), Councillor Ken Taylor, Chris Wilkin, Rob Wheway.
2. **Apologies:** Zilpha Reed (Committee member).
3. **Minutes of the AGM Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 2012** approved by the meeting. Proposed. Tim Brooke, seconded Esther Higden.
4. **Matters arising:** A question was raised about whether the Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers were still functioning. Ken Taylor replied that they were being reduced but he was not sure how this affected Earlsdon.
5. **Accounts:** The Treasurer explained that we had been awarded £1000 from the Heart of England fund for consultation and gardening equipment. The accounts only show expenditure up to March 31<sup>st</sup>. so doesn't show what has been spent to date. We will be applying for more grants and conducting fund raising activities. It was suggested that we request a contribution from the surplus funds that NENA wish to allocate.
6. **Appointment of External Auditor:** Colin Scott, Coventry Libraries will audit the accounts.
7. **Chair's report:** Paul Smith presented his report on the year's activities (attached). Report accepted. Proposer Karen Berry, Seconded Esther Higden
8. **Election of Officers:** (Paul Smith stepped down and Ken Taylor took the chair) As all the current officers expressed a willingness to continue and no other nominations were received, it was proposed by Chris Wilkin and seconded by Esther Higden that the current officers should continue for another year. This was approved by the meeting. Karen thanked Ken Taylor for his support, particularly with the gardening.
9. **Election of other management committee members:** Esther, Tim and Zilpha agreed to continue. Fiona said that she would continue to work for the group, in particular with publicity and media, but would not be able to attend the evening meetings due to family commitments. No one else wished to join the committee but said they would continue to support activities and it was agreed they would be sent meeting minutes.
10. **Registration as a charity:** Tim reported on this item. He said that the benefits of charitable status are that an organization has more credibility in terms of getting grants and many funders only give to registered charities. It also shows open governance and we could claim gift aid. The

negatives are that we would have to produce an annual report and have accounts independently examined but we do this already. The meeting agreed that we should progress towards charitable status and work out further details at future meetings. Tim explained that there are two types of charity – 1. Membership based 2. Trustees. Tim said that as we are a task-oriented committee and there is not a strong move for others to be involved in a formal way as members of the committee, the trustee route would be preferable. Otherwise we have to keep an up to date list of members, which would be difficult. Tim proposed that the trustees should consist of the three officers plus management committee members – up to ten in total. TO counter any claims of exclusivity we would have to make sure all interested parties are kept informed and feel involved. This issue was discussed and the meeting was informed that those interested in gardening are contacted individually and all items about the group's activities are posted on Facebook and the web site as well as in the ECHO. It was proposed and agreed that we go for trustee based charity status as long as we continue to communicate with everyone. We would still have an annual meeting open to all. Proposed by Esther and seconded by Tim.

11. **Next meeting:** Specific dates to be arranged but there will be two meetings – A special general meeting on charity status as this will involve a change of constitution – and a meeting to discuss the park proposals if we get the WREN grant. We should hear at the end of November and work could start in February, which would bring it in this financial year.
12. **AOB:** Earlsdon School is planning to use both parks.

Helen Elias 10.9.13.