**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Spencer Park**

Wednesday Nov. 26th. 7 p.m. Albany Club

1. **Present**: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary) Helen Elias (Treasurer) , Tim Brooke, Zilpha (Committee member), Councillors Ken Taylor and Allan Andrews, Chris Wilkin, John Wilkin, Carolyn Alcock, Gill Brooke.
2. **Welcome by Paul Smith, Chair of the meeting**.
3. **Apologies**: Esther Higden (Committee member)
4. **Minutes of the AGM Sept 7th. 2013** approved by the meeting. Proposed. Karen Berry seconded Tim Brooke.
5. **Matters arising** ; The Friends group is now registered as a charity so that we can claim back tax from donations. The Neighbourhood Officers are still in Earlsdon but on a very limited scale.
6. **Accounts**; The Treasurer reported on the accounts for the financial year up to March 31st. which have been audited. They show small donations from charities and working groups such as The Real Challenge as well as expenditure on gardening, insurance and minor costs associated with activities. The balance at the end of the financial year was just over £500.The accounts only show expenditure up to March 31st. so doesn’t show what has been spent to date. We currently have almost £3,200 in the bank . This increase reflects donations from NENA and donations for the proposed play area and memorial benches. It does not include the £50,000 awarded by WREN for play equipment as this has to be paid to Coventry City Council.
7. **Chair’s report**; Paul Smith presented his report on the year’s activities (attached) Report accepted. Proposer Karen Berry, Seconded Tim Brooke. Paul praised the good response from Council Officers who have been very helpful. The profile of the group is rising with increased activities and we are seeing the output of our efforts. A vote of thanks was given to Karen Berry for her essential work. We are concerned about the future maintenance of parks in Coventry given that the Parks budget is to be cut by a third, which is £1 million. John Wilkin questioned the damage to the maintenance area of the park. This was due to access being needed for the installation of the neighbour’s garage and the area will be made good by the Council. Chris Wilkin reminded us of the need to ensure the crocuses are not cut down during mowing.
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 that the current officers should continue for another year. This was approved by the meeting. Karen thanked ken Taylor for his support.
9. **Election of other management committee members**; Tim and Zilpha agreed to continue. Esther Higden has resigned from the committee due. To work commitments. Ken thanked the committee for their hard work. No one else wished to join the committee .
10. **Update about the progress on the play equipment for the park:** Pictures of the planned play area were on display at the meeting. The area is intended for children up to ten and includes age differentiated equipment within that range. Karen reported that we had gone to tender and the contract was going to Durasport who will be providing the safety surface and working with Sutcliffe Play on the installation. When the Council has signed the contract, the equipment will be ordered. This could take over twelve weeks but work preparing the site can proceed in this period. Concrete rafts will be laid which will be drilled for installation. The play area will take up an area 12 by 20 metres of the old tennis court and will be entirely covered with safety surfacing. The remaining area will be tarmacked and the retaining walls repaired. We hope to have playground markings on the remainder of the area after the equipment is in place. The installation of the play equipment has been delayed by contamination problems on the site and contractual issues but it should be in place in the Spring.
11. **Next meeting**; The next AGM will be in June, probably at the Big Lunch on June 7th. or at the official opening of the play area by the mayor.
12. **A.O.B**.: Zilpha reported that a disease resistant elm will be planted in the park on Dec. 6th. The Real Challenge group have given us more bulbs which will be planted at the next gardening session on Saturday Dec. 6th. (gardening sessions are on the first Saturday of each month 10-12 until the evenings get lighter.

Helen Elias 28.11.14