

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday Feb. 1st 2016

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), , Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reid, Helen Elias (committee members) Trevor Robinson (ranger) Carol Alcock, Richard Jones.

1. **Apologies:** Dal Singh, Scott Crowther
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Jan. 4th accepted as accurate.
3. **Matters arising:** None that are not on the agenda.
4. **Pavilion:** Paul introduced Richard Jones from the Interior Design Dept. at Coventry University. He said that redesigning the pavilion could be a student project. There would initially be three teams of two who could present their results by their submission date of April 14th. The three would then be reduced to two. There are two weight bearing walls inside the pavilion but these could be broken through with an arch or lintel to open up more space. Requirements of the development would include sufficient storage space for the bowling club and tennis equipment, a possible gallery for Art exhibitions and the possibility of a café. Richard said that the building could be surrounded by glass walls on the edge of the verandahs, which would make more space. It was agreed to go ahead with the student projects. We will need to look at a range of funding sources. Paul has been approached by William Leigh, a chef living on Broadway about the possibility of having a pop up café during the summer. He would use the existing building and bring in food. He will attend the next meeting.
5. **Service level agreement:** Ann Doyle has spoken to Graham Hood and Ann Akerman should be setting up a meeting. Karen will follow up.
6. **Tennis plan:** The main proposal is for a community tennis club through the Lawn Tennis Association. It costs 3440 to register. We will need to use their online booking system. Peter Elias is working on this with Karen. Initially we would not use the fob system used at the War Memorial Park as the installation of electricity required would be prohibitive. We would use a 5 digit code padlock. We would charge about £35 per household. We assume that the Council would want part of this income for the maintenance of the courts. If this is rejected, we would have to revert to the Saturday tennis and coaching we did last summer but with a lower level coach. Karen will submit the proposal to Graham and copy it to Ann. We also need a meeting with John of Inspire to Coach with whom we have been working.
7. **Report back from the meeting with the Parks Team:** Dave Lewis spoke about the management restructuring. Ann Akerman will be managing Coombe Park in addition to The War Memorial Park and Spencer Park. The old tennis court will be resurfaced during the next financial year. New bins and plaques for the benches and playground will be installed. The two diseased trees will be cut down by Feb. 20th. One will be replaced by a lime tree and the old root dug out. The tree in our gardening area will be cut back and the trunk could be carved if neighbours are in agreement. Karen has delivered 30 leaflets. So far there has been one comment for and one against. The toxins in the roots of the tree will not spread so the elm tree Zilpha has obtained through a special project which is disease resistant can safely be planted near the old trunk. The gardening group has already removed shrubs and bulbs in the area, which can

be returned after. The Coventry woodcarvers would like to have some of the branches so that they can carve bowls etc. and sell them to raise money for the park. The woodcarver, Glenn Morgan of the woodcarvers group who had expressed an interest in the project was not at this meeting. Trevor has a contact that he will follow up. Helen did not hear from John Wakefield who carved the trees in the War Memorial Park. The group felt a nature theme, particularly a woodpecker would be suitable.

8. **Gardening dates:** Saturdays Feb. 6th., March 5th., April 7th.
9. **Events: Earlsdon Festival** will be held on May 2nd. Karen has booked a stall but it is not confirmed yet. We would use it for consultation over the pavilion and advertising the tennis courts. The challenge are interested in working with us again this year and could help with events in the park on Saturday April 30th. **Easter egg hunt:** will be in the morning of Good Friday - March 25th. **Big Lunch:** Sunday June 12th. **NENA street sale** June 26th. – we will probably have a stall – venue not decided yet. **Bands in the Park** will be taking place this summer. Sunday July 17th is one of two possible dates for Spencer Park
10. **Future plans:** Paul has a meeting with the Multiple Sclerosis group about bowling. The Parkinson's group will be playing fortnightly in the summer.
11. **A.O.B.:** £1400 was donated after the playground dedication.
12. **Next meetings:** Mondays Feb. 29th, April 4th and 25th, June 6th and July 4th.

Helen Elias 3.2.16.