

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday April 3rd.2017

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, Helen Spence, Carol Bayliss, Anthony Godber, Jane Donovan, Liz Bayton (committee members). Carol Alcock, Scott Crowther, John Plunkett (Bowling group) Trevor Robinson (Ranger) Ken Taylor (Coventry City councillor) Richard Jones.

1. **Apologies:** Jane Donovan, Carol Alcock.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on March 6th The minutes were approved with the correction that the NEA donation was for the flat green not the playground markings.
3. **Matters arising: Publicity:** Paul will get 500 more fliers for the Earlsdon Festival. **Funding:** After the problems with children on the bowling greens, Paul wondered if he should be applying for money for fencing from the One Stop bags fund or should he be applying for the playground markings. Fencing would be expensive. A low hooped barrier might be a psychological barrier. This was unresolved. (The police have given permission for us to photograph anyone on the greens so they can pursue the issue. Dave Lewis reported this morning that the football goal will be replaced which could alleviate the problem of football on the greens.) Work refurbishing the old tennis courts has started but as this is costing £15,000 above the £35,000 Dave Lewis had put on one side, there is unlikely to be any money for the Flat Green. **Playground markings:** We need to make it clear that we are happy for the resurfaced area to be jointly used by children and dog walkers so there should be no need for signs banning dogs. We need to canvass opinion about the markings. The five a side football pitch has been ruled out. There is some demand for a picture or logo in the centre – the Friends of Spencer Park logo has been suggested. Anthony will draw up check sheets with illustrations for the Easter Egg Hunt. Dave Lewis will inform us if the Council has preferred providers. **Tennis Court maintenance:** Friends have swept the courts. Only courts 1 and 2 are usable at present and those courts need the nets higher. It was not clear if Anne Akerman plans to instigate court washing. The plan is to get the courts ready for May. **Bowling** Friends had a successful meeting with Albany Bowls last Thursday establishing that Friends support Albany Bowls in their bid to take over the flat green for crown bowling.
4. **Pavilion Plans:** Karen has keys for the whole pavilion, front shutters included. Paul and Helen E. have keys for the back and into the kitchen. Scott and John of Albany Bowls have the same and the six captains have the one key to the rear to access the bowls equipment. The bowling equipment will be kept in the rear room. The Council are leaving the freezer and fridge so we could sell ice-cream, drinks, crisps, biscuits etc. at events and weekends. We might need a fridge thermometer. The Council are going to clean the interior. Helen and Karen are tidying up tomorrow.
5. **Tennis:** Joining up is going slowly – only 16 so far. The committee approved payment of a coach through Inspire to Coach for the two tennis weekends on May 6th, July 22nd., and the open day on May 6th. total £150 for three 2 ½ hour sessions. Carol and Helen S. can help on July 22nd. We need to think about how we can link people up - ?emails ?Facebook. Tim suggested a tennis

ladder, but it needs someone to organize it. Tim proposed corporate membership for the businesses in Queen's Rd. This was agreed in principle as we need to get the courts used, but there was no agreement about the fee or the practicalities of booking.

6. **The Future of the Pavilion:** Richard Jones presented three options which are a pared down, simplified version of the student schemes as the students are no longer involved. These plans reflect conservation issues and some of the original 1915 features have been re-installed eg. balustrades, original doors and windows which would let more light in. The plans would allow separate parts of the building to be used without opening up the whole building. We need to consult with a structural engineer to approve the plans, particularly those around inside walls. Richard will mail out the plans to the whole group so that we can discuss them at the next meeting and set up a sub-committee. When Earlsdon becomes a conservation area we would be eligible to apply for Heritage Funding. We will liaise with Ian Harabin of Charter House. We also need to consult to see what people want the pavilion used for.
7. **Plan for AGM:** The Albany Club will not be available on June 19th. due to ongoing work so Karen will contact the Royal Oak. Pat, as treasurer needs people to settle cash claims so she can do the accounts.
8. **Earlsdon Festival:** Fiona Jay has requested people to work on the road barriers. Carol B. Helen S. Paul and Tim volunteered. Paul will pass on the names. We will share our stall with Albany Bowls. Karen, Helen E. Pat and Paul and Tim will set the stall up (depending on barrier demands. Anthony and Jane will not be around.) The tombola should pay for the stall – items to Karen (no alcohol). Main purpose of stall is to sign people up for the tennis. In addition to the two people on the stall, we will need three people with clip boards signing people up. A rota will be arranged by email.
9. **History leaflet:** Helen Spence reported on an historical large tree in Spencer Park, but Zilpha informed her it had been cut down.
10. **A.O.B.:** We will only be having one Bands in the Park session on July 23rd. The Jaguar Band which does not coincide with the Challenge young people being available.
11. **Next meetings:** Mondays May 8th., June 5th., and July 3rd. AGM June 19th.

Helen Elias 4.4.17