

**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee**  
**Monday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. 2016**

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, Carol Bayliss, Liz Bayton, Helen Spence, Trevor Robinson (ranger)

1. **Apologies:** Scott Crowther, Anthony Godber, Ken Taylor, Jane Donovan, Dal Singh
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Oct.31<sup>st</sup>. accepted as true record after correction of Councillor Hammon's name and change of flat green income from £400 to £200.
3. **Matters arising: Container:** Karen looked at the one offered. It was very small, but she and Zilpha had looked at the container at Allesley Park which looks ideal. Trevor will find out costs from Brian Turner. **Flat Green:** The man who is working on the flat green has his own equipment. Paul is approaching the Freeman's Guild for funding towards the flat green. **Posters:** Anthony was thanked for the fantastic poster now in the noticeboard and for the anniversary fliers.
4. **Play Area – anniversary event:** Fliers distributed. Paul to take them up to John Taylor's. We will be setting up from 9.30 and the pavilion will be opened at 10 and locked up at 2pm. The pavilion will be decorated with fairy lights and we have a Santa with costume. We have blackcurrant squash for a hot drink and will buy mince pies, tea, coffee, and sweets from Costco. £100 should cover costs and we will have a donations box. Event scheduled to start at 11 am. Lysley will say a few words at 11.30 followed by Paul who will encourage participation eg. organizing teddy bears' picnic. Paul and Tim will hand out contact details and collect email addresses of those attending. The children will then go on a Santa hunt, collecting six card santas and exchanging them for sweets from Santa. Tim suggested that parents might want to take photos of their children with Santa. Helen will take photos generally. Zilpha will supervise the urn. We also have a volunteer, Dylan, doing a Duke of Edinburgh award. Helen, Carol, Liz and Jane will meet in the week before the event to finalise arrangements.
5. **Pavilion:** Richard's students are working on the plans. He will attend the February meeting. Carol Alcock said that the clock was still not working. Ken Taylor has contacted Ian Johnson but the situation is unclear. Carol will contact Ken for further information.
6. **Priorities for 2017:** Tim felt that we need a budget showing expenditure and income on a monthly basis. Pat will approach Lloyds about online banking. A finance sub-committee of Paul, Pat and Tim was set up and will meet at Paul's house on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. The **tennis** courts and continuing the community tennis club will be the first priority for 2017. Matthew from the LTA has requested a meeting. We will also trial the maintenance and running of the **Flat Green** for a two year period. Paul has contacted Mel at Earlsdon Village and will follow up. More groups need to be involved to increase income. Hedging/fencing would be a longer term goal. Possibility of coaching? Paul will contact the organization Different Strokes to canvas interest. The pavilion and the Recreation ground are longer term priorities. A MUGA would be acceptable to the council but not skateboard facilities. Helen Spence was welcomed to her

first meeting. She would like to produce a history leaflet which could be sold to raise funds. The park could participate in the history trail at the Earlsdon Festival. Christmas cards and calendars were also discussed.

7. **Funding Opportunities:** Helen is looking at funding sources for **playground markings** on the old tennis courts. These have not been resurfaced yet. There appear to be problems with the tree roots. Applications are in hand to Tesco Bags of Help and the Heart of England Co-op. Voluntary Action has been contacted and need following up. Costs would be between £2000 and £5000 depending on the scope and quality of materials. Helen circulated a possible layout. Tim suggested that we open it up for discussion at the Anniversary event. We need to approach the LTA about funding for the **tennis court** refurbishment. A full refurbishment would cost £45.000. Sport England will have a funding stream called the Community Asset Fund, details of which will be available this month. Helen will apply if we are eligible. They also have another source of funding which looks relevant to the **Flat Green** maintenance, called the Inactivity Fund for adults age 55+ When these details are available Helen will send them to Paul so he can apply.
8. **Gardening;** this month's session was cancelled due to the cold weather. Next session; Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.
9. **A.O.B.:** Helen is unable to attend the NENA committee meeting. Nobody else could attend. Helen will submit a report to the ECHO before she goes away in January. This will include a report on the Anniversary, plans for the tennis and flat green to continue.
10. **Next meeting:** Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. 2017

Helen Elias 6.12.16