

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday Feb. 6th. 2017

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

1. **Apologies:** Anthony Godber, Helen Spence, Richard Jones.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Jan. 9th. accepted as true record.
3. **Matters arising:** Paul wrote to the Freeman's Guild about funding for the Flat Green and playground markings but due to illness missed the deadline. He will apply next year. SENA replied that they could not contribute and NENA did not reply.
4. **Pavilion:** Richard sent his apologies that he has not been able to do any work on funding due to time constraints but he will be coming to the March meeting.
5. **Report on Meeting with Parks Team:** Dave Lewis reported that they are still expecting to refurbish the old tennis courts this financial year. He had no information about the clock. Michael Hammond's bench will have a plaque mounted on it before installation. They are ordering a picnic bench and the two pads will be installed at the same time. Street services have ordered one goal post for the large park, but Dave hasn't used the metal detector yet to find the mounting points. Dave is checking on Ann Sadler's oak tree and looking for alternatives for the small park. He is trying to get the Highways dept. to fix the cycle path. Michael will clear the moss on the tennis courts prior to opening on April 1st. Paul and Tim will sweep the leaves off the courts next Weds. Feb. 15th at 10 a.m. They are only cutting the grass once a month. Paul was concerned about dog mess, but it was felt that owners would still be able to see what their dogs were doing. Karen replied to the email from Laura Cooper expressing concern about the playground markings. The reply clarified the situation about the asbestos and asked her for her ideas. Karen is going to apply to the Memorial Tree Fund for funding to replace the missing David Spencer tree – a Verdun oak.
6. **Report from the meeting with the LTA re tennis and future plans 31st January 2017:**

Karen and Peter met with Matthew Russell of the LTA. Matthew told them that for this year we would only have to pay 50% of the cost of being affiliated to the LTA. This gives us access to the club spark website and the Public Liability Insurance of the LTA. He showed them how to access our documents on the LTA website.

Matthew also said that Warwickshire LTA now had a Facilities Manager, Robert MacDonald. He will put us in touch with him, so that he could come over and visit us and give us advice on the courts and the way forward to getting them refurbished.

Matthew said that Warwickshire LTA would be putting on some training on using Club Spark and other things connected to running a tennis club.

They asked about having corporate membership and this would be possible if we want to do this.

Great British Tennis weekends 13th and 14th May and 22nd and 23rd July.

They asked about coaching and Matthew said that we would need a level 2 coach and he suggested we talked to Andy McFeeters from Inspire2coach.

The committee felt that we need to advertise the continuation of the community tennis club this summer at £25 each family. This should be part of a general leaflet sent out in March advertising our up and coming events. Helen offered to prepare the wording for discussion at the next meeting when we could ask Anthony to design the flier and update the general poster in the notice board. We can take leaflets to Earlsdon shops as we did for the Christmas event and possibly deliver them. It would be helpful to email NENA members, but Karen felt this would not be possible. Helen will advertise the events in the ECHO and Your Call. We have

banners advertising the tennis, but need to locate the plastic Spencer Park banner made by the Challenge group. Tim will investigate corporate membership for the Queen's Rd. Rotary Club.

We also need to facilitate members finding partners to play against. If we can show increased demand and interest in the tennis club this summer and canvas opinions, we would be in a good position to apply to the Sport England Community Asset Fund for funds to refurbish the courts.

We plan to provide cakes, drinks etc. at events and would like to do this at weekends and also have toilet access. We **still** can't access the back of the pavilion and really need to have a key so that we do not have to rely on the Council opening up the pavilion every time. Pat wondered if we could initially ask to collect the key from The War Memorial Park each time we need it and return it. Maybe if we show ourselves to be reliable they will eventually let us have a key. Nothing came of plans to have a café in the pavilion so providing refreshments would be a good interim solution. To be discussed at the next meeting.

7. **Diary of Events:** (attached) Karen discussed dates for Bands in the Park with Trevor and suggested Sundays July 2nd., August 13th and Sept. 3rd.
8. **Funding opportunities:** Paul is applying to Boost and Bruce Wake Fund for the Flat Green. He will also get in touch with Sport England to discuss an application for funding from the Inactivity Fund for over 55s and disabled. Paul felt we should make a general application for all sports in the park including tennis and Nordic walking but there was a feeling that initially it should be for the bowls. The deadline for an initial application is Feb. 13th. Paul will also contact Mel, the Activities Officer at Earlsdon Retirement Village about the bowls.
9. **History leaflet:** Helen Spence could not attend so this item was not discussed.
10. **Gardening:** First Saturday morning in the month and the second and fourth Thursday evening each month from 6.30 to 8 pm starting on May 11th. Carol will also contact Earlsdon School to arrange for the Year 2 group who planted the crocuses to come up to see them in a couple of weeks, possibly March 1st. which would be a good photo opportunity. Trevor was asked about the possibility of a bird box construction session. He will investigate.
11. **Any other business:** Ray Wilson would welcome the Friends at the Thursday morning wood clearing/path revival sessions which have now extended to the NENA side of Earlsdon Ave South by the Memorial Park. They start at 9 a.m.
Ann Wilson from Stoke Park has been in touch about the three Peace trees on the large Spencer Park. They are still there, but the explanatory sign was vandalized and removed. This needs to be replaced.
Trevor has not heard anything about the container.
12. **Next meetings:** March 6th and April 3rd. 2017

Helen Elias 7.2.17