

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee  
Monday Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Present:** Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), , Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reid, Helen Elias (committee members) Carol Alcock - Albany Bowls, Trevor Robinson (ranger) Councillor Ken Taylor, Dal Singh, Ann Doyle - Community Development team.

1. **Apologies:** Paul Smith - Chair, Scott Crowther (Albany Bowls)
2. **Minutes of the meeting on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.** were accepted as a true record apart from the mis-spelling of Carol's name.
3. **Matters arising:** Pavilion - Paul met with Richard Jones on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>., but Karen has no information about the meeting as Paul has been ill. Play Area - the launch went well and the area has been well used over Christmas despite the wet weather. There has been no further progress on signs for the playground. This will be discussed at a later meeting. An additional bench has yet to be installed. Thanks were expressed to Helen for agreeing to be the Friends rep. on the NENA committee.
4. **Service level agreement:** since our last meeting Karen had revised the agreement to reflect the discussion at our last meeting. Ann Doyle said that the previous draft had come to her from Graham Hood. She said we needed to say what we want to do. She will take our amendments to Graham. Tim felt that our commitment might increase in future if money were available, but at present Karen's proposals are realistic in terms of what we can manage.
5. **Tennis plan:** This was discussed as a matter of some urgency as we need to get things sorted for the Spring. We also cannot put the tennis on the service agreement till we get it sorted. Carol said that the bowling group were interested in being involved in a fob scheme. She also said that the group were very pleased with the state of the Crown green apart from the corner of the fence by Belvedere rd. which needs maintenance to prevent people going in. Karen had costed the fob lock system. The lock itself costs £2000. 200 fobs held by members would be an additional £2000, bringing the total to £4000. The system would need electricity, which would be a considerable additional expense. It was felt that perhaps a 6 digit coded padlock would be more realistic. Pat said she would find the cost of the 6 point lock. Members at the War Memorial Park pay £35 for access to the courts throughout the year and in evenings with flood lighting. They use Inspire to

Coach's online booking system, which could also be available to Spencer Park. The committee discussed whether the courts should be open all year round. At present the courts are closed and are very mossy. This might improve when the tree comes down. In the past the courts were open in the winter and players used the courts "at their own risk" until someone sued them when they slipped and fell. We felt we needed a legal definition of "at your own risk". It was felt that the degree of risk aversion would be connected to the costs and terms of insurance. At present the Council is quite risk averse. Dal said he would find out what Daimler Green pay for their insurance. Ann also agreed to find out more about the Council's insurance policy. Karen felt it was feasible to continue with the Saturday morning sessions. These would be cheaper if we used a level 2 LTA coach and ran the sessions more for enjoyment with less intensive coaching. The participants would have to bear most of the costs of hiring the courts. Karen agreed to produce a plan for the use of the tennis courts from Easter and circulate it to us prior to arranging a meeting with Graham Hood. The meeting will be as soon as possible as there is not much time before Easter. We also need to keep pressure on the Council to tarmac the old tennis court, which we can then mark out for games and/or bike tracks. This would seal in the asbestos. Tim felt that we should also be asking about the future of the pavilion, but the group felt that we should initially focus just on the tennis. There have been a variety of ideas circulating about the use of the pavilion, but we need more time to explore them and come up with proposals before entering into discussions with the Council.

6. **Gardening dates:** Saturdays 10 -12 . Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>., March 5<sup>th</sup>., April 2<sup>nd</sup> May 7<sup>th</sup>.
7. **Earlsdon Festival and Big Lunch:** the Earlsdon festival will not be taking place this year. The Big Lunch will be on Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>. and the Friends have agreed to organise it in Spencer Park. We could also participate in the NENA Street sale, but do not know the date.
8. **Dates for the next meetings:** Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Helen Elias 5.1.16