

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday Oct. 31st.2016

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, Carol Bayliss, Anthony Godber, Jane Donovan, Liz Bayton (committee members) Carol Alcock, Trevor Robinson (ranger) Ken Taylor (Coventry City councillor)

1. **Apologies:** Scott Crowther
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Oct.3rd. accepted as true record
3. **Matters arising:** **i.** Councillor Hammond has agreed to pay for a bench. We have also had a contribution for the picnic bench so Karen will liaise with Dave Lewis to order them. **ii.** The free container we have been offered is only 6x6x8 ft. It would be needed to house a mower, chairs and the bowling equipment so would not be big enough. It would be expensive to install and there are transport and health and safety issues. Even if we took it to tide us over, it would incur the expenses when we replaced it. Ann Akerman suggests that it would be easier to buy a new one like they have at Allesley Park in the car park. We will go and have a look at it. **iii.** We still haven't got access to the back of the pavilion even though it has a new lock and the burglar alarm has been sorted. It was suggested that Ann Akerman is concerned about public liability.
4. **Bulb planting:** Carol and Liz will meet the Earlsdon school staff and children at 10 am at the park on Nov. 9th. Trevor will bring trowels and dibbers for the two classes working in groups of three. Carol will ask them to bring up containers for each group's bulbs. Paul will provide a garden spade. Zilpha will be there and Karen will be there at the beginning to open the toilets.
5. **Notice board:** We can use this to inform people who we are and post activities. Rather than have a number of small notices it was decided to have one laminated template size A2 with all the information on it which can be regularly updated. Anthony agreed to do this. Tim will send him the text and Helen will send photos. Anthony will get anti condensation pellets to put in the board.
6. **Tennis:** The Council will soon be removing the nets. Paul will lower the remaining net and change the combination of the lock so only the council can enter. Tennis will finish for this year, but we want to continue next Summer with perhaps some coaching. The courts are not in a good condition: the corner fencing has not been fixed and there is a lot of moss. Paul handed out a report on the costs of renovation of the tennis courts. Just cleaning and de-mossing would cost £2050 a year. Paul will investigate deep cleaning. To renovate the existing surfaces would cost £8213 which would last between three and five years. New tennis surfaces would cost up to £30,000 and with a new link fence we would be looking at over £45,000. Our revenue from the tennis club is ring fenced as it will be needed to pay for LTA membership and their booking system next year. The Council is not asking for payment for the use of the courts – graham Hood had said that we could keep any income. We do not know if the Council will pay for any maintenance next year.
7. **Flat Green:** Paul has a quote of £925 from a reliable contractor. He needs a provisional budget for the period up to Christmas. The committee authorized him to spend £280 – the minimum needed to maintain the green. He has had

no reply from the council to his request for assistance with maintenance. It was suggested that when the Crown Green has a top dressing, if we prepare the Flat Green the workmen could then spread the dressing onto the flat green. The income from the Parkinson's group was about £400 – they are paying the council rate. We need to boost our income to cover the costs of maintenance. Paul will approach Earlsdon Retirement Village as there ought to be interested people there. There was concern that Earlsdon School had used the flat green for P.E. as this would give the wrong message to others going on the green especially as the notice prohibiting games etc. on the green has been moved to a prominent position. Carol will have a word with the Earlsdon teacher when they plant the bulbs. Wrongful use of the green might be helped by having a fence or hedge. Hedge plants would cost £600-£700 pounds plus the cost of installation and the presence of the gulleys would not be conducive to hedging. The cost of fencing was not known.

8. **Pavilion:** Paul has not yet been able to meet with Richard. Carol Alcock raised the issue of the clock not working. Ken will ask Graham Hood when he meets with him if the maintenance contract still runs. He will also ask him about the rear access to the pavilion and the tarmacking of the old tennis court which has been promised for a long time. At the recent Earlsdon Conservation Area meetings it was said that if a conservation area were created, we would be eligible to apply for heritage funds for the pavilion.
9. **Play Area Anniversary Event:** Monday Dec. 19th. 11 am onwards. Helen, Carol Bayliss and Liz agreed to form a planning sub-committee and will meet on Monday afternoon. Helen will complete the booking form and risk assessment. Paul will contact the Lord Mayor. We will provide refreshments – probably mince pies and mulled wine and perhaps some Christmas activities for children. Do we want a Santa? The group will send the information about the event to Anthony for the notice board and Helen will advertise it in the media. We need to involve the local people who are using the playground and empower them with a feeling of ownership so that they feel confident to help organise ongoing events such as teddy bears' picnics.
10. **Gardening:** now on the first Saturday of the month: Nov. 5th., Dec 3rd and Jan 7th.
11. **A.O.B.:** Tim reported that the Freeman's Guild gives out small grants of up to £250. Paul to follow up. Awards for All through the National Lottery are also available up to £10,000. NENA AGM is Tuesday Nov. 8th. at the Criterion. Helen cannot attend, but Paul will.
12. **Date of next meeting:** Dec. 5th.