**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground Management Committee** **Wednesday June 18th. 2014**

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Helen Elias (Treasurer), Tim Brooke Zilpha Reid, (committee members)

**Apologies**: Esther Higden

**In attendance**: Rob Wheway

**Play equipment**: the first part of the meeting was spent discussing potential equipment for the play area to be built on the old tennis court. The discussion was based on the paper and amendments that Helen had produced which drew on the consultation process and the play equipment providers’ proposals. Rob was able to advise us on practicalities, safety and popularity of the various items.

* He said that current thinking is that barriers in front of **swings** are not necessary as they attract children sitting on them. He will email Helen with details of this. The area can be zoned for older and younger children with the two kinds of swings in separate zones.
* When choosing a **climbing structure** we need to look at the range of activities and opportunities for a variety of play. He said that the Wicksteed Simba is very robust. Rob recommended that we contact the Association of Play Industries, the trade body for advice on play value, strength, cost and suitable age range. Helen will do this. He also said that the toddler structure should be significantly different from the older children’s climbing structure.
* He advised that a roundabout should have something to hold on to, not just flat.

A bench should be included in our plans, as the Council will not provide one. (We plan to raise money for Memorial benches but the first one would probably be located in the north east corner. The council quote £1300 to install a bench.)

The spinner bowl could be the piece of equipment that the donors of an additional £1000 would provide as it is about the right cost. They will have to be billed separately.

We will make a formal approach to Durasport for the provision of the following items:

1. 2 sets of swings – one flat, one cradle
2. A climbing/slide structure for 4 to 10+ year olds
3. A toddler structure
4. A roundabout
5. A spinner bowl.

If there is sufficient money we would like ground level trampolines which are very popular although we realize that the Council feel they require too much maintenance.

Durasport will provide their grass type impact play carpet safety surface .

We have to be very specific about the dimensions of the equipment as the asbestos will be removed from where it is bolted down. We were unsure how the installation of the safety surface would be affected by the contamination removal. We would not be able to extend the area to include more equipment at a later date as the remaining area will be capped. We would like to put play markings on the new surface leading off from the equipment area. This would probably have to be paid for by further fund raising, but it should be considered within the bid if costs allow. All proposals have to meet Council Health and Safety standards and be approved by the Parks dept.

Rob Wheway was thanked for his assistance and when he left the meeting returned to the agenda.

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of May 19th., were accepted as a true record.
2. **Matters arising** – The Big Lunch was successful. It attracted families with young children. The parachute and the tennis coaching were very successful. Next year we should provide cricket equipment as the impromptu match was very popular. We did not seem to attract older people, but there were a lot of other Big Lunches on the same day, which might have appealed to them more. We felt the young families are those who have been involved in other activities at the park, are interested in the play area and are getting involved -which was our aim. Earlsdon Ward Forum July 17th.
3. **A.O.B.** Zilpha and Karen met with the Council officers Dave and Simon. They are redoing the path between the old and new tennis courts as soon as possible as it is a health and safety hazard. They also have 45 bags of mulch we can have if we have somewhere to store them. Paul to ask Richard Walker as none of us had space. They will be replanting the beds. As we were unsure if we should be weeding the rosebeds, we felt we need clarification on what is our responsibility. Zilpha will start the fund raising for Memorial benches at the Bands in the Park on Sunday. She donated £70 for the bench to start it off.
4. **Next meeting** July 16th

Helen Elias 25.6.14