

**Minutes of the Friends of Spencer Park Committee**  
**Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, , Carol Bayliss, Anthony Godber, Jane Donovan, Liz Bayton , Helen Spence (committee members) Carol Alcock, John Plunkett (Bowling group) Ken Taylor (Coventry City councillor), Fiona Jay (Earlsdon Neighbourhood Police Officer)

1. **Apologies:** Tim Brooke, Carol Alcock, Trevor Robinson (ranger)
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Monday Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>. Accepted with correction that there were apologies from Carol Alcock and John Plunkett. Paul and Karen cleared the leaves from the tennis courts, not Tim.
3. **Matters arising:** NENA donated £200 towards the playground markings. Richard is not at this meeting to talk about the pavilion. But will come on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The goal posts are not up yet. There is no more information about the oak tree. The clock is repaired. We still can't access the rear of the pavilion although Helen found the doors were open on Sunday and the lights on. The alarm went off and Paul contacted the Council who secured the building. John is in contact with the Parks Dept. to get access and tidy up the area for the bowling club.
4. **Publicity:** Anthony has produced two posters. One is basic information about the Friends group which will be on the gates directing people to the main notice board which will avoid too much clutter on the gates. This was amended to substitute Coventry citizens for local residents. The other big poster for the noticeboard was amended to include the Crown green bowling. Anthony will also work on a leaflet about upcoming events to include the tennis club and bowling. He will speak to Kevin at Rennison's about printing 500. Carol, Liz and Helen will distribute these to schools, shops etc. Paul also wants a notice about keeping off the flat green.
5. **Funding:** Paul will be submitting an application for funding from the One Stop fund and will discuss with them what they will cover. Karen, Helen and Peter met with Robert McDonald and Matthew of the Lawn Tennis Association to discuss the **Community Tennis Club**. Robert felt that the courts were in reasonable condition but will need moss killing and pressure washing before they can be used. The washing should be done by a contractor after the moss killer has been down for three weeks which means it should be done this week if we are to be ready for the opening on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Karen has approached Beechwood cleaners who will charge £400 a court and is looking at alternatives. If we can't pressure wash we will have to fall back on brushing. Robert thought that the courts would need refurbishment in about three years. This would cost about £40,000 plus the cost of new fences which would bring us over £50,000. He said that we need to demonstrate demand before applying for funding. We should set a target of 100 families. The LTA have a community fund which could contribute to costs to supplement an application to the Sports Foundation. Paul said that we could do cleaning and painting in the short term for about £8000 which would keep the courts going for a few more years. Helen reported on the **Sport England Funding meeting** in Leicester on Monday. (A report has already been distributed) There are various funding streams. After talking to an advisor the Small Grants Fund seems most applicable to us. However, we must demonstrate demand for the tennis and bowls before our application could be considered. Just because the tennis courts and green are there it does not follow that there is a continuing demand so we should approach things with an open mind, perhaps considering alternative uses for the sites. Alison, the advisor stressed the importance of the social aspects of tennis, the need for facilities such as toilets and refreshments and perhaps the need for coaching. The model that Gill Sowerby describes at the War Memorial Park in this month's **ECHO** would seem appropriate to us. Karen has already been in touch with her as she is a member of our

Community Tennis Club. Karen will also investigate coaching. We agreed that we need to put people in touch with others in our club so they can find partners to play with. Anthony felt this could be done through Facebook.

**Access to the pavilion** is of increasing importance. We were told that it would not be a problem for us to have keys, but this has not happened. It seems unnecessary, expensive and inconvenient for council employees to have to come and unlock and lock the pavilion every time we want to use it. Karen will organise a group of committee members to meet with Ann Akerman before the next meeting.

6. **Plan for AGM:** Karen will try to book the back room at Albany Social Club for Monday June 19<sup>th</sup>. at 7.30 pm.
7. **Events for 2017:** The following people volunteered to help with the events:

Date	Event	Helpers
Weds. April 12th	Easter egg hunt	Karen, Liz, Carol, Paul
Mon May 1st	Stall at Earlsdon Festival	Paul, Helen, Liz, Karen
Sat. May 6 <sup>th</sup> .	Tennis and bowls open day	Helen, Paul
Sat. May 13th	Great Tennis Weekend	Karen, Helen and Carol
Sunday June 18th	Big Lunch	Anthony, Jane, Liz, Helen

(Other people may have volunteered, but it was hard to minute) We will discuss later events at further meetings. Carol said she would set up a catering committee to organize refreshments for the event. Liz and Helen said they would assist. Helen Spence told the meeting about The Great Get Together to commemorate the life of Jo Cox, the murdered M.P. This is the same weekend as the Big Lunch. The committee felt the two events could be brought together. It would be preferable for all local community groups to combine their Big Lunch at Spencer Park. Helen S will contact SENA and HERA Helen E will talk to NENA at their committee meeting.

8. **History Leaflet:** Helen Spence circulated the leaflet so far and shared pictures of the park and copies of the original plans. She hopes to complete the leaflet for the next meeting. She was thanked for all her efforts.
9. **Gardening:** first Saturday of each month. At the last session primroses were donated which have made a colourful contribution to the west bed. Carol has arranged for the Earlsdon School children who planted the crocuses to come up to the park this Wednesday to see them in bloom.
10. **Any Other Business:** John Plunkett said that the Albany Crown Green Bowling Club was becoming very popular. During the season from April to September they play on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. At the rate things are going one green will not provide enough capacity. They would like to investigate taking over the Flat Green and converting it into a Crown Green if this is acceptable to the Friends. The consensus was that this would be a good move as the demand is there. Scott will now work on costings, feasibility and funding. Helen E. reported on Ray Wilson's wood clearing on Styvechale Common by the War Memorial Park which has now extended into the NENA area on the north side of Earlsdon Ave North. More helpers are welcome.

Helen Elias 8.3.17