

Friends of Spencer Park Committee
Minutes of the meeting of Monday Oct.8th. 2012 7.30-9p.m.

Present: Karen Berry (secretary) Paul Smith (Chair) Helen Elias (Treasurer)
Tim Brooke and Fiona Pashazadeh committee members

Apologies: Zilpha Reed

1. Report back from the meeting with Tony Dean and Dave Lewis on the playground

The meeting was very positive, with the council officials supporting the concept of play areas for the under eights on the old tennis court in the park and facilities for older children in the recreation ground including the MUGA and gym equipment. They were committed to maintenance of the equipment as long as the safety surfaces were not bark or sand. They felt that equipment needed to be sturdy and high quality to withstand normal usage and any vandalism. Large wooden structures were not recommended. It was suggested that we contact Durasport who use a variety of suppliers. Kompan equipment was good quality. **Action Helen** Because there is ash under the tarmac surface the whole area has to be cleared as equipment could not be anchored. This would reduce the height of the area so would obviate the need for fencing. A mound would not be feasible. No equipment could go under the cedar tree. That area would be grassed. It would cost £12-15K to clear the site. They felt that the plans we had were too cluttered and less equipment would be needed.

Tony recommended visiting the Gosford Park and Stoke Park play areas. **Paul** to contact Corrinne Spencer and arrange a committee visit on a Tuesday a.m.

Action arising: We need to think what we want and start the consultation process. We also need to look at funding – the Heart of England Micro-grant and Landfill.

2. Planting in the park

The crocus planting started on Sept. 29th will be continued on Sat. Oct 13th. 10-12.30 NENA are paying for the bulbs. Steve Wright is providing wheelbarrows, which will be stored in the pavilion. Karen has the key. This session will be followed up on Nov. 3rd. The bird boxes will be constructed on Tuesday Oct. 30th. by a group of children supervised by Steve. He is addressing an Assembly at Earlsdon School. A planning meeting will be held at Zilpha's Tuesday Oct. 9th.

3. Roles of the management committee

These areas will be led by the following members:

Media/publicity/web site/Contact with Echo – **Fiona**

Consultation – **Esther**

Play area and equipment – **Helen**

Gardening/design – **Zilpha**

Liaison with Council – **Karen**

4. Paul met with Gill Naylor, head of Earlsdon School. on Sept 18th. The school would like to return to using Spencer recreation Ground for Sport if dog mess is no longer a problem. She would also like to use the tennis courts during the winter for sports such as football and will present a plan to the council.

5. The constitution was signed by all present.

6. **Next meeting:** Monday Nov. 12th 7.30 at Esther's.

