

Minutes of the meeting of Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground  
Management Committee Monday November 12<sup>th</sup> 2012

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Helen Elias (Treasurer), Esther Higden, Tim Brooke, Fiona Pashazadeh (committee members)

**Apologies:** Zilpha Reed

1. Minutes of Oct 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted

2. Playground equipment – Helen

Helen contacted Durasport and has a contact : Andy Stevenson of the Sales team. He said they are a design and build firm - they would take our plans, look around for the best equipment from a range of firms and carry out the installation. He wanted to know about the tendering process. Would we pick the three firms or does the council do this. **Helen** to contact Dave Lewis. **Esther** to find out the financial limit for Europe wide tendering.

Helen shared a rough mock up of the features we think would be appropriate for the under eights play area. This was discussed and generally approved and could be the basis for consultation. Helen will label it, photograph it and circulate it to the committee.

3.Planting

All the crocus bulbs paid for by NENA are planted in Spencer Recreation Ground and Park. The top beds have been tidied and replanted and work has been done on the bottom area. The compost needs moving. It was decided to have a regular afternoon the last Thursday of the month for gardening starting Nov 29<sup>th</sup> and to include Dec 27<sup>th</sup>. **Fiona** to advertise in the Echo.

4.Bird boxes

The session with Steve Wright went well. Nine boxes were constructed involving about twelve children. They have not yet been installed. **Fiona** to report for Echo. **Helen** to send her photos. Steve will be making more boxes for the recreation Ground at the Earlsdon after school club. At February half term he will run a bird feeder construction group in the park.

5. Funding streams

Karen has drawn up an application for a micro grant from the Heart of England Community Foundation for gardening equipment and community events to facilitate consultation. This was approved. **Karen** will get Councillor Ken Taylor and Helen to sign it for sending off for the Wednesday deadline. The community events suggested were storytelling and liaison with the Earlsdon Sports activity, crown bowling and Bands in the Park. We would need posters and leaflets. **Karen** will pursue the possibility of applying for Landfill tax money for the playground. **Helen** to ask Dave Lewis.

2013 The criteria for the Parks for People funding has changed to include play and recreation equipment as well as community facilities. **Karen** to find out if the next first stage deadline application in February is under the old or new regulations. If the former it would make sense to wait for the August application

date when we could have had more consultation. **Esther** will prepare a draft questionnaire with a view to piloting it at the bird feeder event.

6. A.O.B

Paul has been asked to be on the committee of NENA.

Karen has re-requested the installation of “No ball games” signs in the park.

The Friends group is now part of Voluntary Action Coventry

7. Next meeting Monday Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 7.30 p.m. at Esther’s