

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday May 16th.2016

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reid, Helen Elias, (committee members) Trevor Robinson (ranger) Richard Jones, Esther Higden, Gaby O'Sullivan

1. **Apologies:** Carol Alcock, Scott Crowther (Bowling group) Ken Taylor (Coventry City councillor) Carol Bayliss
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Monday April 25th accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters arising:** Park trees. Paul contacted Tim Wetherhill concerning the memorial oak tree and the lime. Tim has agreed to move the lime but feels the oak tree should be left, but will prune it. The committee felt that the oak would grow too big for the park and would dominate the bowling green. It was planted in 2011 so it is probably too late to move it. Paul will pursue this. (We need to record our time spent on Spencer Park issues as well as keeping a record of park usage such as the tennis.)
4. **Big Lunch:** Sunday June 12th 12 noon till 4pm. Trevor can lend us a parachute and possible other games equipment. The pavilion will be open. We will sell cakes, tea, coffee and squash and ice creams. The books and toys will also be on sale. Zilpha, Helen and Tim will not be there. Paul, Pat, Karen and Esther will be there. Karen will contact Carol Bayliss to make cakes. She will get some games but this will be subject to the number of helpers available. (The Challenge young people are helping at a later date) There will be tennis and bowls. Paul will contact Andy for tennis equipment. Tim will provide his pasting table and Helen will provide jugs. Janis will take photos. Zilpha will leave cakes etc. at Paul's.
5. **Pavilion:** Ann Akerman is sorting the back access to the pavilion for the bowling group. She wants us to come with ideas for the community café although she prefers the van. Paul has been contacted by two interested parties and will invite them to see inside the pavilion. We can then approach Ann for a meeting. Richard Jones will present the students' plans for the pavilion at the AGM: "Early concepts for the development of the pavilion." If we take on the pavilion at a peppercorn rent we would be eligible for funding from sources that the Council can't access. Paul will look at approaching the Heart of England for funding for a feasibility study.
6. **Flat Green:** Paul arranged for a volunteer to clear the moss, but he hasn't returned to rake it. Paul will follow this up. He has not yet got anyone to cut the green. They need a cylinder mower but there is an issue of storage and transport for getting the mower on site. The Flat Green is not usable at the moment.
7. **Tennis:** 35 families have signed up to date and several people have been using the courts. We will continue to encourage people to join. Karen and Peter have been struggling with the LTA online system to set up the booking system. Jane (LTA) wants a meeting to discuss the future of the courts. Karen will arrange this with Peter. We need to keep a record of wet closures.
8. **Gardening dates:** Saturday mornings 10-12 June 5th., July 2nd., August 6th and Sept 3rd. Thursday evenings 6.30-8.30 June 9th and 23rd., July 7th., and 21st., August 4th and 18th., Sept 1st and 15th.

9. **NENA Street Sale:** Sun. June 26th.11-4. Most of our efforts will be focused on the party in the park after the street sale but we could have a stall. Paul agreed to do this. (However at the Street Sale meeting the following evening it was found that Paul would be otherwise engaged so Karen and Helen decided not to have a stall) We do not yet have any musicians. Cakes will be on sale. (Helen offered to produce an updated flier with information about the group and upcoming events.)
10. **Challenge Summer event:** Sunday Aug 14th. We will meet with them on July 4th. to plan the event.
11. **AGM:** Tuesday July 5th Albany Club Lounge 7 to 8.30
12. **AOB:**
 - Bands in the Park are on July 17th and August 28th
 - Paul will set up a meeting with the Councillor in charge of parks to discuss our work and will bring a letter to the June 6th meeting. There was some confusion whether this was Councillor Khan or Cann.
 - Helen raised the issue of the re-installation of one set of football posts. The Council had agreed to re-install them, but the metal slots had been covered with earth after the travellers left. Paul will check if they can be installed. Pat has a metal detector that can be used. Michael would know the approximate position.
 - Worldsong are performing in the park on June 18th. but have not been in touch with us for months. We need to find out what format their event is taking and what our contribution should be. Helen will pursue.
 - Helen raised the issue of there not being a sign to say the playground equipment is for under tens which makes it difficult to challenge adults and teenagers who might be misusing it. Trevor will speak to Dave Lewis
13. **Dates of next meeting:** June 6th. and July 4th.

Helen Elias 18.5.2016