

**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee  
Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>. 2016**

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Zilpha Reed, Carol Bayliss, Helen Elias, Anthony Godber, Jane Donovan, Liz Bayton (committee members)

1. **Apologies:** Tim Brooke, Carol Alcock, Ken Taylor
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on July 4<sup>th</sup>. accepted as true record.
3. **Matters arising: Oak tree** – Paul is still waiting for a reply. **Old tennis courts** – no further progress on refurbishment. We may get a response at park meeting on Monday. **Fun Day** went very well. Thanks for Karen's hard work. (We were reminded to keep a record of the time spent on Friends work) Asking for a suggested, donation for cakes rather than charging worked well – we can claim tax back so make more money. We will continue this with a sign. The flat green bowls is getting started and Crown Green bowls is flourishing. The playground is very popular but there is a problem with the toilets being closed. The gardens are also looking good. The **tennis** is going well, but there has been a problem with some young men who are not members using the tennis courts. They told Karen they have been given the code. It was suggested that we change the code regularly and make sure members know not to hand on the code. Another problem is that the fence corner by the pavilion has been cut open and an ex coach from Beechwood Tennis club, Kevin, has been coaching members and offering to set up a group. Paul will check with Beechwood. Karen has asked Trevor to sort out the fence repairs. The club currently has 57 families.
4. **Priorities for 2017:**
  - **Tennis Club:** to continue next year, probably on the same basis with family membership. We will have to pay for the membership of the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) next year to use the booking system. The advantage of membership is that it includes public liability. LTA membership was formally agreed by the committee. We will also probably have to pay for the initial de-mossing in the Spring as we have been allowed to keep the income from the family memberships. It was thought that the LTA would not be able to fund improvements to the courts. Paul will contact Jane Ashton of the LTA to clarify the situation. Karen and Peter need to sit down to sort out the problems that have arisen with the web site before next season. We hope to keep the courts open till the end of October if the weather stays fine.
  - **Getting the toilets open:** The women's toilet still has bowling equipment in it as although the access to the rear of the pavilion has been sorted, the alarm needs to be isolated in that section. Pat suggested that in the long term it would not be a good idea to use a lot of the pavilion space for sports equipment as this would limit plans for the future development of the pavilion. She suggested the installation of a container by the compost area. It was agreed that the bowls equipment should be out of the toilets. John Wilkin has offered to open and close the toilets daily but there would still be the issue of cleaning. To be put on the agenda for our next meeting.
  - **Pavilion plans:** It was felt that the student plan that included glass panels might lead to vandalism. The structure needs to be very robust. At the AGM it was felt that a mixture of the two plans would be appropriate.

We need to give feedback to Richard and the students. To be discussed at next meeting. In the meantime Paul will contact Ann Akerman to set up a meeting about the park after Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

• **Flat Green Bowls:** Avonmore Associates prepared the green for use this summer. The total cost was £1158, part of which Paul is querying. Paul is following up alternatives to Avonmore hoping to get the work done cheaper. He has a contact called Malcolm who does the green work for the Standard club but he does not have the equipment. Karen felt that we might be successful putting in a bid for equipment. Paul will find out how much Malcolm could do without the equipment. There was a discussion as to whether we could use the equipment/hire the staff of Morningside or Henry's but Paul said it is very difficult to move. Graham Hood had offered us a lawn mower, which could be kept in a container. Any equipment we obtained could also be kept in the container. Karen said that the gardeners now work for Brian Tranter. Paul will investigate if they could do the work and we pay them. Paul has raised some money and will approach NENA after their AGM. The green will need some work in the Autumn. It was agreed that we would continue to fund the flat green work, but would look for cheaper options. The next two Parkinson's sessions are on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. and Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>. Carol Bayliss will provide the September cake and Jane will provide the October one. Carol offered to co-ordinate the provision and serving of cakes and teas at events to enable the process to run smoothly now that we have more people involved.

5. **Gardening dates:** The first Saturday in the month – Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>., Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thursday Sept 15<sup>th</sup> will be the last evening session. We would like to plant more crocuses – about 1000. Also some more lavender which needs to be the Hidcote variety. It would be good to involve children in this – either by advertising for volunteers or approaching Hearsall and Earlsdon schools to find out if they would like a class involved as part of their curriculum.. Carol will contact and Earlsdon and Helen will contact Hearsall later in the month.
6. **Meeting with Mel Teece of Earlsdon Park** retirement village Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 1.30 pm. Karen will attend and Paul hopes to. There could be several residents interested in bowling, tennis or involvement in the committee so it could be a useful link.
7. **Committee roles:** We need to organize better for activities, allocating tasks and sharing responsibilities with less reliance on Karen. Karen will bring a list of the tasks she does so that we can come up with an equitable distribution of responsibilities which can be effectively co-ordinated.
8. **A.O.B:** Signs are going up asking people to care for the park. The benches will cost £2000+ each. Michael Hammond is paying for a bench on retirement from being Mayor in memory of the Spencer family to which he is related. The bench needs a foundation. Zilpha said that we would still like a picnic table in the north east corner. Dave Lewis is getting costings. Pat will bring an up to date balance of our accounts at the next meeting. Zilpha suggested we have a tree in the name of the Friends of Spencer Park to replace the dead one by the flat green. (The tree that was planted in the wrong place to replace the lime tree in the border is dead and should be replaced.)
9. **Next meetings:** Mondays Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. and Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. at 7.30 pm at Zilpha's.