**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground Management Committee** **Wednesday July 16th. 2014**

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Helen Elias (Treasurer), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Read, Trevor Robinson

**Apologies**: Esther Higden

1. **Minutes** of June 18th. meeting accepted as true record.
2. **Matters arising**: Karen will follow up on the **mulch**. Richard is following up on the **rose beds**. Zilpha felt that we need to be clear which areas we are responsible. She will raise this at the next meeting with the park officers. **Play area**: clarification on the need for barriers on both sets of swings is needed. Karen to contact Ces. Association of play areas: Helen has looked at the site but it seems that we have to be members to get advice. She will phone and find costs but it doesn’t look promising. Paul will contact the prospective donors to check they still want to pay for an item of equipment. Karen has put in a bid to the police fund for £1200 which would cover the spinner bowl.
3. **Play area**: Andy Stevenson from Durasport met with Helen and Karen and on the basis of our last meeting he has come up with feasible equipment with some choices. Once we have decided what we want he will contact Sutcliffe Play for discounted costings. We felt we should go for two small climbing/slide structures rather than one big one as we can then cater for two age groups: 2-6 yrs. And 4-10 yrs. This equipment could then be zoned by age group with the two sets of swings. We will also see if we could have two benches. We had rejected trampolines set into the ground as this would present difficulties with the contamination clearance and they are difficult to maintain. Helen agreed to contact Andy with our preferences. Our understanding is that the whole area will be sealed so that the safety surface will go on top of the newly capped surface. Karen will confirm this with Ces. The Durasport safety surface will cover the whole area where the play equipment will be installed, not just around individual pieces. Andy will be able to work out the area needed to comply with safety requirements.
4. **Gardening in the park**: the next dates are July 23rd, Aug. 13th and 27th and September 19th. all at 6.30. It is crucial that we have access to water. This will be raised at the next meeting with officers.
5. **Bands in the Park**: Sunday August 24th. As so many of us are away, selling cakes might be a problem unless we can get volunteers committed to making cakes.
6. **Spencer Park Management Plan from Dave Lewis**: Paul had prepared a response which was discussed and approved. It would be useful to put some of the pictures in the report on the web site, but in its current format it is not easy to access online. (Trevor has some good piuictures of the bird boxes which he will send to Helen for the web site and facebook) The plan is a valuable resource, but difficult to access. It doesn’t include the Recreation ground, sports facilities or the use of the park by Earlsdon School. It does not at present constitute a definitive plan. We felt we could contribute to the management plan in the Autumn. Karen will circulate sections 8,10 and 11. Karen has prepared a description of the Friends of Spencer park which she will submit for inclusion.
7. **Earlsdon Ward forum**: changed to Sept 4th.
8. **A.O.B.**: **Bug wall** – we need a date to construct this. It would be an adult event due to the use of cement, bricks etc. Trevor can access air bricks and will follow up with Michelle to set up a date in September. **August activity**: it was felt that tree identification with children would be feasible. Thursday Aug 28th 10.30 to 12 am was fixed. Karen to put this in Echo.
9. **Next meetings:** Monday Sept 1st. and Wednesday Oct. 1st. 7.30 pm

Helen Elias 18.7.14