**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee**

**Monday June 6th. 2016**

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), , Zilpha Reid, Helen Elias, Dal Singh, , (committee members) Carol Alcock, (Bowling group) Ken Taylor (Coventry City councillor)

1. **Apologies**: Tim Brooke, Carol Bailey, Scott Crowther, Trevor Robinson.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on May 16th. Corrections: the pre-meeting with the Challenge group is Aug. 4th not July 4th. The person who cleared the moss was a contractor not a volunteer.
3. **Matters arising:** Oak tree – Paul has sent a letter to Tim Wetherhill proposing the removal of the oak tree to the Recreation Ground or the installation of a smaller memorial tree in the small park. The football posts will be reinstalled.
4. **Correspondence:** **Old tennis courts**: Durasport are unable to do the renovation work so Dave Lewis is looking for another contractor. **Dogs in the park:** A request on Facebook for clarification about dog restrictions was clarified – dogs are not allowed on the bowling greens, tennis courts or playground and anywhere else they do not have to be kept on a lead. A second Facebook message concerned an offer to provide a fence round the playground so that dogs would not go on it. It was decided to invite the writer and any other interested dog walkers to our next committee meeting. It was pointed out that the Council would not allow private individuals to install fences but would have to put it out to tender to their approved contractors. This would be more expensive. Karen will get approximate costs from Dave Lewis for the next meeting. Paul raised the issue of security for children who can get out of the park gate if it is not secured. Pat pointed out that there is no sign about no dogs on the bowling green on the Spencer Rd side. Karen will also raise this with Dave.
5. **Big Lunch**: This Sunday 2-4pm. Tennis courts available. No coach, but Paul will see if Andy can lend any equipment. Carol to remind Scott about bowls. Dal willing to lead games and will bring equipment. Karen to get Woodcraft parachute. Table, jugs and extension cable to be left for Worldsong concert June 18th.
6. **Pavilion**: Paul is meeting with Liz Bateman and Jane Donovan who are interested in running a café in the pavilion. Dal will join him. They will see the pavilion at the Big Lunch. (The LTA want a community café in the spirit of the community tennis club.) Once they have met, Paul will contact Ann Akerman.
7. **Flat Green**: Paul hasn’t got anyone to undertake the upkeep of the flat green. It is not playable at the moment so disability groups have not been contacted. Dal may have some contacts he can pursue. The council should be cutting it fortnightly but haven’t. It needs to be cut to 6mm and scarified. The committee gave approval to Paul up to £600 to find a contractor with public liability insurance. Carol said that Scott would like a hedge round the flat green. The cost of 500 plants would be about £395 but it would also need a fence and a gate.
8. **Community tennis Club**: Paul, Karen and Zilpha met with Jayne Ashton, LTA Regional Tennis Participation Manager. She is in favour of a community tennis club, with the pavilion operating as a community activity area, including a café and the provision of a range of activities across the park, for different age groups including the recreation ground. She stressed the courts should not be used in wet weather and agreed they were in need of refurbishment. She felt that instead of deep cleaning, sealing and painting at a cost of approx.. £8000 it would be better to go for a complete refurbishment to include an all weather surface, a new fence and wider gate at an approx.. cost of £100,000. She said that we would have to use the LTA booking system and apologized for the lack of communication which had necessitated us using an alternative system. Karen will liaise with Peter Elias on this. Karen reported that 40 families have joined which will cover the online system for next year. We will have to list all family members individually. Andy, of Tennis for All, is looking for a new coach to replace John and will include working with Spencer Park in the job description. We also discussed draft rules for the tennis club. The committee added more so the amended set will be discussed at the next meeting.
9. **Gardening dates**: Saturday, 2nd July, 6th August, 3rd September, Thursday 9th June, 23rd June, 7th July, 21st July, 4th August, 18th August, 1st September and 15th September.
10. **NENA Street Sale:** The Friends will not be running a stall. For the evening event we have a temporary events permit. A guitarist will play during the evening. He will need a small payment. Helen will approach NENA at the committee meeting to sort this out. The Albany Theatre may have a story teller available. We will need a P.A. system. Earlsdon Park will have a table to give out leaflets about the housing development. Karen has requested that the pavilion be open for the party and for the Worldsong concert but hasn’t heard from Ann Akerman. She will follow this up.
11. **Challenge:** the pre-meeting with the young people will be on either Aug. 3rd or 4th. Karen will pursue this.
12. **AGM:** July 5th, 7-8.30pm Albany Club. Paul is willing to carry on as Chair but asked if anyone else was interested. Pat is willing to carry on as Treasurer but Karen is not sure if she wants to continue as secretary.
13. **A.**O.B.: Promotional leaflet – there is a box in the library. Paul will distribute in Earlsdon High Street shops and John Taylor’s.
14. **Next meeting:** Monday July 4th. 7.30 pm

Helen Elias 8.6.2016