**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground Management Committee**  **Wednesday Oct. 1st. 2014**

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

1. **Apologies**: Esther Higden
2. **Minutes** of the meeting of Sept. 1st. Accepted as true record.
3. **Matters arising**: **Gardening**: Paul has spoken to Richard about the rose bed that he planted. The council have not weeded it and it needs pruning and thinning out. The gardening group will prune the roses in November. **Donations**: Zilpha has received £5 towards the bench and we have had 350 from a Spencer Park resident towards the playground.
4. **Gardening in the Park**: Next session this Saturday Oct 4th 10-12.30. and then on Nov. 8th. The pavilion closed on Sunday. The group discussed why there was less use of the tennis courts. The Memorial Park and Beechwood are used more. They have the involvement of Inspire to coach and the Memorial Park has a membership scheme. Inspire to coach were interested in involvement at Spencer Park but we need someone who will liaise with them to organize a tennis ladder. Karen will put an appeal in the Echo in February and bring it up at the NENA meeting.
5. **Play Area**: WREN have currently got the contract and when signed should be with us in a week when we can order the play equipment from Sutcliffe Play, who will then release the technical details to Andy of Durasport. He will then be able to liaise with the council about preparing the site. The equipment will be delivered in about eight weeks. Although we only have the Council’s verbal agreement to drill the holes for the equipment foundations and seal the rest of the site, Ces has advised us to go ahead with the order. If there are problems preparing the site to the specifications Karen has suggested that the 106 money could be used to prepare an area on the grass which Andy says will cost about £8000. WE discussed further sources of funding. We could look at Awards for All (National Lottery) for adult equipment on the Recreation Ground.
6. **Earlsdon Ward Forum**: date changed to Dec. 11th. Karen will request Spencer Park be on the agenda.
7. **The Challenge Nov. 15th**: Helen, Karen, Zilpha and Paul will be available. Trevor will provide spades. The group will plant crocuses and conduct a questionnaire on park users and those crossing it. They will have lunch at Burger King which we will pay for out of the £100 we get from the Challenge. If wet they will be at Barrs Hill or Henry Eighth with a changed programme. Karen has contacted NENA about paying for the crocuses - £300. Zilpha said NENA are considering donating to the bench fund. Paul felt we would not get both. He has got the impression while serving on the NENA committee that some people in NENA regard the Friends of Spencer Park group as a splinter group and not part of NENA. The group felt that we must get across to them that we are a fundamental part of NENA and only had to set up our own committee and bank account in order to create a broader base for outside funding. Our work in Spencer Park is the equivalent of SENA’s wood clearing group. If NENA have funds available we should receive contributions as Spencer Park is a definite asset to the NENA area. Perhaps we could suggest a working party to improve our side of the Earlsdon Ave. South woods and invite Ray Wilson to the next NENA meeting.
8. **AGM**: Karen to find a venue. Possibly Albany Social Club. Possible date Weds. Nov 5th 7.30. (Needs to be in Echo by Oct 20th)
9. Next meeting Weds. Nov. 5th. 7.30 at Zilpha’s