

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee

Monday April 4th 2016

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Helen Elias, Dal Singh, Nicky Todd, Wendy Bicknell, (committee members) Carol Alcock, (Bowling group) Trevor Robinson (ranger)

1. Apologies: Scott Crowther, Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reid, Ann Doyle
 2. Minutes of the meeting on Feb. 29th. accepted as a true record
 3. Matters arising: The Easter egg hunt was a great success. 81 children attended. The playground has involved more families. Bands in the Park: We would like them to be in Spencer Park on July 17th. and Aug. 28th. Trevor will coo-ordinate this and let us know. Goal posts: Andrew Walston is in favour of their re-installation, but there has been no action yet. Trevor said that the metal sockets for the posts are still in the ground but have been covered up by earth moving after the travellers' incursion. Has anyone got a metal detector we could use?
 4. Finance: Paul has submitted our claim for back tax due to our Charity status. We should get £989 tax back from the £4280 of donations over the last three years. He suggested that we ask for donations at each event as we can claim tax back. He suggested a Flat Green appeal at the May Festival.
 5. Pavilion: The Friends group had wanted the pavilion to be used as a café to increase footfall in the pavilion and strengthen the case for its restoration for wider use. Will Leigh's proposal for a pop up café had our support but Ann Akerman replied to him expressing a preference for a van and doesn't want the pavilion used. Although Will will not now be available this summer, other groups are interested in providing a pop up café. Paul is meeting someone on Tuesday. However, we do not know if Ann has given the go ahead to someone with a van, which we would not support. Also, would we be able to sell cakes and teas at events if an outside caterer was involved. Last year we raised £400 for the Friends group. Dal said that groups can get free use of a coffee machine and just pay for the coffee. Carol said that the Bowling Group was adamant that they need access to space in the pavilion for storing their equipment.
- At this point two new members – Nicky Todd and Wendy Bicknell joined the group and were briefed by Paul.
6. Flat Green: Paul said that the flat green needs to up to a playable standard but not competition standard. If it is not maintained properly it will be lost as a bowling green. He is waiting for an estimate for moss treatment and scarifying which would probably be about £500-600. Ongoing maintenance could be done by Michael if he has a cylinder mower. Trevor said there is one at the War Memorial Park and will find out if it can be used on

Spencer Park. Pat reminded us that Graham Hood had said we could have a mower. The Parkinson's Society want to start in May. Paul has to contact the M.S. group. Any fees would not cover the cost of the initial preparation.

7. Tennis plan: John Sherry has been offered a new job but is still keen to continue weekend coaching for us. We need to contact him if we want him to do this. Karen has not heard from Valley House about our application for renewed funding for the tennis coaching. Helen will pursue this.

Membership will be £25 per family from May 1st till the end of September. Access by 5-digit padlock. Another padlock will be used to prevent access in wet weather to comply with Coventry's Health and Safety requirements as the courts do not have an all-weather surface. Pat will order the padlocks and keys. Ann Akerman has agreed to this so Peter Elias will go ahead with setting up an online booking system with the LTA. The courts would not be available on the afternoons Henry V111 school uses them and on Saturday mornings if we do coaching. The courts look cleaner. Karen will ask Michael if they are ready for use. We will be advertising the tennis club at the Earlsdon Festival – at the Saturday activity day and on our stall at the Festival on the Monday. Karen is going to produce an information flier and a contract form that members will sign. Information needs to go into local schools. Helen will order two weather proof posters to put on the tennis courts advertising the club and will post information in the ECHO, the web site and Facebook pages.

8. Gardening dates: Saturday mornings May 7th. and June 4th. The tree roots will be removed from the felled trees this week so Pat will order three bags of loam from Travis Perkins. These can be cut open and tipped over the hedge to avoid the need to barrow all the soil round. Trevor will obtain no waiting cones. Replanting of the shrubs etc. can take place once the soil is delivered.

9. Other dates: Earlsdon Festival April 30th and May 2nd. Big Lunch June 12th. Party in the Park Sunday June 26th 4-7 pm after the street sale. We will decide if we want to run a stall after the street sale planning meeting on May 17th. which Karen and Helen are attending. Sunday Aug 14th Children's activities in the park.

10. Working with the Challenge: The group agreed to bring in the group again. The best date for their involvement would be the children's activity day on Aug. 14th. We would need to meet with the Challenge students on Aug 3/4. Dal has access to Zorb balls and Nerf guns which we could use. We would also have face painting, Art, games and refreshments.

11. A. O. B: The oak tree in the park needs moving as it will grow too big where it is now. As it is a memorial tree this needs handling sensitively. We are waiting for a response from Michael. Helen's role on the NENA committee was clarified. Tables: We have been offered tables by the council. Paul said we should go for ten lighter ones and chairs. Karen to follow up.

12. Next meetings: Mondays April 25th, June 6th and July 4th.

Helen Elias 6.4.2016