

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Ground Management Committee Monday December 7th 2015

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Helen Elias, Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reid, Pat Ryan (committee members) Trevor Robinson (ranger) Carol Alcott (bowls), Councillor Ken Taylor, Dal Singh.

1. **Apologies:** Scott Crowther
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Monday Nov. 2nd. 2015 accepted as true record.
3. **Matters arising: Pavilion** – Paul met with Dave Cattell of Rodney Melville and Partners, architects and showed him round the pavilion. He is a member of The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. He was impressed with the building and thought the structure was sound. He will provide us with contacts, sources of funding and some pro bono consultation. Paul also met with interior designer Richard Jones at the park who offered services. Tim felt we need to be clear on what we want to use the pavilion for. Paul said we should plan for a meeting when we have more information. **Bowling** - Carol said that Scott is pleased with the state of the Crown Green but has concerns about lack of access to the pavilion. The bowling equipment is currently stored in the Ladies toilets. There are six groups who have keys, which would constitute a security problem for the Council if they all had access to the front of the pavilion. If the Flat Green were to be converted into a Crown Green it would have to be fenced in. The feasibility of the conversion was questioned. Paul said that the Parkinson's group wants to use the Flat Green fortnightly. He is going to follow up with the Arthritis Association. The Flat Green is in reasonable condition, suitable for play but not competitions at present.
4. **Play Area:** The play area is completed and open to the public. Despite the poor weather it has been well used. There has been a very favourable reaction and no negative comments so far. There have been questions about the availability of toilets and the possibility of a café opening. Some of the grass areas need turfing or re-seeding. The play area will be formally opened by Michael Hammond, the Lord Mayor on Monday December 21st. at 10.30 a.m. The pavilion will be open from 9.30 to 12 and refreshments will be available. Karen will buy sky blue ribbon to be placed across the slide for cutting. Zilpha will get mince pies. Paul will welcome the Lord Mayor. Helen will contact the Echo. Karen will contact the Council to put the information on their circulars. She will also contact them about a Council quote for the press release, which Helen has prepared and will send out on Friday. Paul proposed a vote of thanks to Helen and Karen for their work towards the establishment of play area.
5. **Tennis:** Paul and Karen reported on their meeting with Andy McFeeters of Community Tennis and John Sherry, the tennis coach on Nov. 12th. John suggested a community tennis club of local member with informal coaching on a Saturday morning. Karen said that the idea of opening the tennis courts at no charge would not be feasible as the costs of hiring the courts would be too high for the Friends budget to cover. Karen and Helen felt we should go for the annual fee/key fob route. This might be difficult as it would incur extra costs of making the fence secure but it was felt that we should work towards this in conjunction with the Saturday sessions if we are to get the tennis courts more available next year. Dal has experience of the Daimler

Green sports facilities. He said that the courts could be used for other sports during the week, which would generate income. Karen said we wouldn't get a grant from the Lawn Tennis Association if we went along that route. Dal said that basketball and football could be played on a 3G or 4G safety surface, which would also be suitable for tennis. The Football Association could be approached for financial support. Daimler Green is now covering its costs. This approach looks interesting and will be pursued. The group decided that our primary aim would be the fob scheme. Inspire to Coach have a new booking system so people could book on the internet and use the electronic fob for entrance. Karen will contact Andy McFeeters about the key fob scheme.

6. **Service Level Agreement:** The group looked at the service level agreement for Spencer Park given to us by Ann Doyle, the Community Development Officer. It appears to be a more general document and is not particularly geared to Spencer Park. It appears more as a list of what the Council would like us to do and there are a lot of things in it that we would not want to do unless there was funding for us to hire people to do the work. Dal said that Daimler Green had spent a long time working out a Service level agreement but it has now taken off well. They have adequate facilities to generate funds as they can hire out their sports facilities and buildings, for example for children's birthday parties. The group went through the document. It was felt that some of the responsibility Ann was proposing for us would only be for selected beds and parts of the park, not for the whole park. Zilpha will revise the Agreement in conjunction with Tim. Should the pavilion be included in the agreement? It was felt that we were in no hurry to rush into an agreement and that we would present our ideas to the January meeting when Ann Doyle will be present.
7. **NENA representative:** Helen agreed to be the Friends representative on the NENA committee as long as others can step in if she cannot attend.
8. **Gardening dates:** First Saturday in the month- 10 to 12 Jan. 2nd, Feb 6th, and March 5th.
9. **A.O.B:** There was a discussion about what kind of signs there should be by the playground. Trevor said that there is a sign with emergency numbers on. Karen will contact Dave about the cleaning of the boards. The War Memorial Park has interpretation boards. Trevor will talk to Dave about them. Karen will also talk with Dave Lewis about the procedure for installing a plaque crediting the Friends, the Council and WREN.
10. **Dates of next meetings:** Mondays Jan 4th., Feb 1st., and Feb. 29th.

Helen Elias 9.12.15