**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground Management Committee** **Monday March 3rd. 2014**

**Present:** Karen Berry (Secretary), Helen Elias (Treasurer), Zilpha Reid

**Apologies**: Paul Smith, Tim Brooke, Esther Higden

1. **Minutes of Feb. 3rd**. meeting approved.

**Matters arising**:

1. **Orchard windfall**: Zilpha has the information pack about this. The Tree Council will fund this but need 25% matched funding. We felt we were happy to support the planting of fruit trees in Spencer Park, but Rachel of Community Gardening needs to apply. Karen to contact Rachel.
2. **Facebook**: Fiona has sent the admin. rights to Karen, following Helen’s call. Karen and Helen to get together to sort it.
3. **Big lunch**: Karen to attend NENA meeting to talk to Pete Mitchell – previous organizer. Karen has the pack and has registered with Streetwise.
4. **Funding Fair**: Tim and Karen attended the meeting and spoke to the WREN grants officer who said that we should pay VAT as this is covered in our bid to WREN. If the application goes through the council we would not pay VAT but this would be deducted from our award. WREN will look favourably on future bids. Our only problem is that we would have to get third party matched funding.
5. **Meeting with Ces Edwards on March 5th.:** Only Karen and Zilpha are able to attend. They will try to clarify the situation about on site contamination as there has been considerable slippage in the implementation of the playground plans. The grant was awarded in November and we expected a full report on the contamination in January and it is now March.
6. **Gardening in the park:** Next session Sat. March 15th 10 – 12.30. The focus will be on weeding and tidying. On Tuesday April 15th as part of gardening week there will be a full day of planting from 10 – 4. Zilpha will provide the plants. There will also be an Easter egg hunt throughout the day for the children who have attended a previous session. May 3rd will be the next regular gardening session 10 – 12.30. The approx. £66 we got from the Wish list in the Telegraph could be used to purchase shrubs. Karen will contact the lady on Dalton Rd. who has hebes to donate. (The bulbs we have planted are coming up and the other shrubs and plants have taken well).
7. **Bug motel event Feb.** 21st.: This was well attended and has been constructed by the small concrete structure near the Spencer Rd. council access. It consists of straw, pallets and air brickwork. Many thanks to Trevor, Roland and the other rangers for their support and hard work. Karen will send Helen photos for the web site. **Bug wall**: Karen has spoken to City College who are willing for students to help with the construction. This would be an adult event in term time due to the construction involved.
8. **Earlsdon Festival:** We have booked a stall and paid for an entry in the programme. Helen, Zilpha and Karen can be there. Karen will organize the tombola – donations welcome. The theme of the stall will depend on developments on the playground. It would be useful to have photos of the gardening and try to get more volunteers. During the week there will be tennis and bowls at the park.
9. **Big Lunch:** We need games and play equipment such as hook a duck. Karen to find out what has happened to the Community equipment. Otherwise we could purchase some equipment, as we need it for events at the park. Zilpha and Helen have gazebos they could lend. Helen has a paddling pool and table football. We decided we did not need a P.A. system for announcements and music.
10. **AOB:** We would like to have another Fun Day in September – Karen will contact the Challenge group. Our Charity status has been established. We need to have a record of donations so that we can claim gift aid and reclaim tax paid. This can be back-dated to Sept. 2012.

**Next meeting;** Monday April 7th 7.30 pm at Zilpha’s house.