**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground Management Committee** **Wednesday June 3rd. 2015**

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Helen Elias (Treasurer), Tim Brooke, Pat Ryan (committee members) Ken Taylor (Councillor)

1. **Apologies**: Zilpha Reid
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on April 29th. accepted as true record.
3. **Matters arising:** Tim reported thatwe have collected 3135 signatures on the anti cuts petition. 559 of those are on line.
4. **Strategy for next year:** Paul presented a draft report, which was discussed. It was felt that the park funding situation is currently vary vague. The council’s commitment is unsure. We do not have a financial breakdown of Spencer Park costs as they are lumped in with The Memorial Park where the ground staff are based. If the Friends Group were to take on contracting out park work we would need management support and could jeopardise council jobs. Ken attended the NENA meeting which Andrew Rawlston addressed. He was only talking about the Friends group taking over the staffing of the pavilion to facilitate bowling and tennis. He said the Council would continue to maintain the gardens. There was a discussion about the need for a fence round the children’s playground because of the issue of dogs. Without a fence the dogs would have to be on leads. The possibility of putting the play equipment on the flat green was discussed but we would prefer not to rule out the possibility of flat green bowling in the park in the future.
5. **Tennis ladder:** The attendance is small but very keen. John Sherry is an excellent coach who is keen to see Spencer Park used as a base for children’s tennis lessons away from adult lessons as the adults at the Memorial Park would prefer not to be disturbed. Beechwood Tennis Club is also interested in using Spencer Park for the overflow when they have matches. John is unable to be at the session this Saturday but it will still go ahead as a knock about session and John will put on an additional session later. Esther will get the key for Helen to set up the courts.
6. **Big Lunch:**