**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground Management Committee** **Monday April 7th. 2014**

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

**Apologies**: Esther Higden

1. **Minutes of March 3rd**. accepted as true record.
2. **Matters arising**:

* Nothing has been heard about Orchard windfall and plans for apple trees on Spencer Park.
* Helen and Karen need to meet about Facebook page
* WREN meeting. Tim and Karen attended. Grant manager recommended that we apply for funding for the Recreation Ground
* The bug motel session went very well. Many thanks to Trevor
* Karen hasn’t heard anything about the Challenge group, but we would like to have a repeat of last year’s activities in September.
* Charity status has been approved. We can claim back to Sept. 10th. 2012 when we officially started. Helen to look at donations we could claim.
* Bank statement: We have 3503 in the bank soon to be boosted by a generous donation of £1000 from Paul and Jan. Many thanks.
* Karen has been offered public liability insurance from Tennyson for £226.60. Karen to contact Ray Wilson of SENA as they have similar insurance to cover events and gardening activities so we might be able to negotiate a joint submission at a cheaper rate.

1. **Meeting with Ces Edwards**- 4 options for the partial or complete removal of contamination on the old tennis court site have been suggested. The estimated cost of complete removal is 3150,000. Ces is still waiting for the costs. We would still prefer to put the playground on the tennis court site as if we use the grass area it would have to be at a distance from the pavilion because of events like bands in the park which use the grass areas adjacent to the pavilion. Karen has contacted Veola, the waste disposal group who feel that we have a good basis for applying for £100,000. The deadline is May 30th and we would hear by September, which would still enable us to meet WREN’s November deadline for final plans. We would need 11% matched funding, hopefully from the Council. Karen to speak to Ken Taylor.
2. **Gardening in the Park**: This will take place next on April 15th. which is in National Gardens week. We will be planting cowslips and wild strawberry plants for ground cover. The Easter egg hunt will involve finding six cardboard eggs to exchange for one chocolate egg. Zilpha will drop cowslips off at Paul’s. On April 24th. we will be planting bulbs on Spencer recreation Ground. There will be a gardening session on Saturday May 3rd for the Earlsdon festival. We need to weed and plant perennials. We will have a plant sale in the afternoon and could sell perennials and snowdrops and possibly chutney.
3. **Earlsdon Festival Monday May 5th**.: stalls will be set up at 9.30 and cleared by 4.30. we will have a tombola, possibly sell plants and display the playground and gardening plans. A plan will be drawn up at the next meeting.
4. **Big Lunch Sunday June 1st**.: Karen has booked activities. We will not use a P.A. system but will need gazebos. Helen and Zilpha each have one for loan. Karen will contact friends to organize children’s races.
5. **Bands in the Park**: In Spencer Park on June 22nd., July 27th., and Aug 24th. It would be useful to sell cakes and have an ice cream van. Trevor will try to ensure that the pavilion has sufficient drinks etc. to sell.
6. **The accounts – end of financial year:** Karen will arrange for these to be audited.
7. **Spencer Park management Plan**: It needs a statementabout who the Friends Group is. Karen will write this and submit it to Dave. Tim and Paul will read the file as we all found the disk difficult to read. It was generally felt that although there was a lot of good material in the report it was rather repetitive, particularly photos and the history sections.
8. **AOB**: Zilpha has costed the labeling of trees. The labels are £1.80 each and the springs and washers needed are £50 for a hundred plus £10 post and packing. Trevor offered to install the labels. Zilpha can name the trees from the section in Dave’s report. Karen will talk to the college about help with the bug wall.
9. **Next meeting**: Monday April 28th. Main topic to discuss plans for the playground and prepare a draft. Helen will bring the plans we have from firms. Trevor will let Helen know who provided the big structure in the younger children’s playground at Sovereign Road Park.

Helen Elias 9.4.2014