**Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground Management Committee** **Monday April 28th. 2014**

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Helen Elias (Treasurer), Esther Higden, Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reid (committee members). In attendance – Pete Lowen, Coventry City Council Funding desk.

**Apologies**: Esther Higden,

1. A general discussion took place with **Pete Lowen** about funding possibilities for the playground and the current issue of contamination on the old tennis court which is holding up the installation of the play equipment. Pete had been briefed about the contamination problem and knew that as the council own the park and put the material in in the first place they have to remove it. The quote for removal is £150,000. We asked about whether the Council has a contingency fund for such circumstances but Pete didn’t know. He said that if the council decided to cap rather than remove the contamination that the capping would have to be deep which would raise the existing level. The company that did the survey has not come up with costings for the four options so we do not know how much it would cost to seal the site. Pete thought that Biffa or Veolia might top up extra costs that we might incur but we would have to apply quickly. We discussed the problem of what we say to people at the stall at the Earlsdon Festival next Monday as there will undoubtedly be questions about when the playground is being installed, as consultation was the focus of last year’s stall. It was felt that we should be contacting Andrew Walster, the Assistant Director, City Development to find out why they hadn’t had a response from the company and what we should be saying to people on Monday. A meeting with him would be useful. Karen will speak to Ken Taylor again tomorrow.. Pete said he could help with future funding possibilities and suggested Sport England, Awards for All (Lottery), the Alan Higgs Foundation and possibly the Evesham Trust if we are catering for disabilities. Pete left the meeting at this point.
2. The **minutes** of the last meeting on April 7th. were accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters arising**:
* Facebook: Helen has set up a new Facebook page with the title Friends of Spencer Park instead of the previous page entitled Spencer Park project. It will be linked to the web page.
* The bug hotel appears a bit damaged. We will look at it on Saturday at the gardening session.
1. **The Challenge group** can help on Nov. 15th. They could plant bulbs and do clearing. There will be twelve young people. It was proposed that we take them to Burger King as the weather is unlikely to suit a picnic and could not involve children as last year.
2. **The Easter egg hunt** and gardening in the park was a great success and brought in new people. Some people are using the park for jogging. Earlsdon school has started using the park for P.E.
3. **Bands in the park** have booked an extra day – Sunday June 8th. – the Cubbington Silver Band. Other dates are June 22nd. – Salvation Army; July 27th. – Dean River Jazzmen; August 24th. Meridian Dance Orchestra.
4. **Future gardening**: Paul has four bags of snowdrops to plant. There will be a plant sale on the morning and afternoon of Saturday May 3rd. at the park (Any left over plants can go on the Monday stall) Gardening will then take place fortnightly on alternate Wednesdays starting May 21st. at 7 pm.
5. **Earlsdon Festival**: Monday May 5th. Tim and Karen will set up at 9. Paul and Helen will be there from 11 till 1. Clear up will take place between 4 and 5. Helen will produce an A5 leaflet to hand out at the stall with some information about the group and details of Facebook, web site and contact details. Tim will provide boards to show the plans if this is advisable. It was felt that pictures of our work in the park would be useful for display.
6. **Big Lunch**: Karen has obtained loan of a parachute and has plastic eggs for the egg and spoon. She hopes to have volunteers to organise the games. Tennis and bowls will be available in the afternoon.
7. **Future plans**: This was discussed above. Paul felt that we should finalise our plans in the event that the contamination issue is resolved so that we are ready to start. Karen will contact the tree group to find out if there is a preservation order on the cedar tree. We are concerned that sealing /capping the tennis court might have an adverse effect on the tree. Paul suggested an Art in the park day during the summer holidays as this might bring in another group of people.
8. **Next meetings**: 7.30 at Zilpha’s. Monday May 21st, Wednesday June 18th,Wednesday July 16th.