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

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

1. **Apologies**: Paul Smith
2. **Minutes** of the meeting of Jan. 6th were accepted as a true record.
3. **Matters arising:** The building of the **bug hotel** will take place on Feb. 21st with Trevor and another two rangers there from 10.30 a.m. till 3.00pm. It will be a drop in event. We plan to construct the **bug wall** on April 14th and 15th in the Easter holidays in National gardening week – April 14th to 19th. There was some uncertainty about whether cementing would be needed. Zilpha has not had any commitment to the building from groups she has contacted. Helen has contacted Fiona about the **Facebook** page and will follow through.
4. **Park team meeting:** There is still no news about the park soil survey. Karen will follow up. The hedges round Spencer Park are being lowered gradually starting by the gate on Spencer Ave. The plaque to David Spencer on the Recreation ground near the railway bridge may be moved to a situation by a tree.
5. **Green Space meeting:** Karen attended this. There is a survey to complete about our expertise and willingness to help other groups. Tools and training are available. We felt we would benefit from first aid training as none of us has an up to date certificate.
6. **Gardening in the Park:** The next dates will be Feb. 15th and March 15th. There will be no session on April 19th due to the construction of the bug wall on April 14th and 15th. A lot of fallen wood needs clearing and the ground forking over. Trevor was thanked for the posters. The trees that were felled have been replaced by limes and ornamental cherries.
7. **Play Equipment:** Without the results of the survey there was no point discussing it now. We have to have plans in place by Nov. 22nd. 2014 to retain the funding. We need to draw up plans in May. It would be useful to have an internal committee meeting to decide what we want before having a meeting with Dave Lewis to see what the council will accept as they will have long term responsibility for maintenance. We will ask Rob Wheway for advice. There was concern that the money allocated for clearing the site had been spent on the soil surveys.
8. **Orchard windfalls:** Through Rachel of the Community Orchards scheme, five fruit trees can be planted on Spencer Recreation Ground. The planned site is by the last house on Spencer Ave. We would like to choose Wyken Pippins. Karen will forward this with a message of support from the group.
9. **Earlsdon Festival:** The group felt we should book a stall for publicity of gardening activities and to present the plans for the playground. Karen will organize tombola and would welcome contributions.
10. **AOB:** We are taking on the **Big Lunch** on June 1st. Karen will talk to Pete Mitchell who has organized it in the past. We will need to book events/equipment e.g. Parachute. Karen to organize an Easter egg hunt based on clues round the park. **Tree labels** Zilpha has the details of the man who did them for the Memorial Park. She will get costs so we can appeal for funds. We discussed the possibility of approaching NENA at the next meeting in March. Trevor has a list of the number and type of trees.
11. **Next meeting:** Monday March 3rd 7.30 pm.

Helen Elias 5.2.14