

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground Management Committee Monday Oct. 7th 2013

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Helen Elias (Treasurer), Esther Higden, Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reid (committee members)

In attendance: Trevor Robinson (Ranger, replacement for Steve).

1. **Minutes** of the meeting of Sept. 2nd were accepted.

2. **Matters arising.**

- Website – It was suggested that contact details should be clearer. Paul asked if the Chairman's report has been included. Tim has verbal permission for the photos he took at the fun day but it appears we need written permission. Helen will take an Autumn photo for the website banner heading.
- Funding – We have applied for £800 from the Heart of England for public liability cover, plants and garden equipment and should hear by Oct 30th. We should hear about the WREN bid after Nov. 20th.

3. **Real Challenge.**

This was felt to be a real success and should be repeated. It attracted a lot of local people so had a good community feel about it. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The cakes were very popular. Next time we need more face painters as there was a queue and some were disappointed. We could increase the charge to £1. Altogether we made a profit of £50. We could have more activities, sports etc. possibly in conjunction with the local schools. The games equipment may not be available due to cuts. Trevor suggested we could sell hot drinks and cakes at the Bands in the Park events. Dates to be known in February.

4. **Charity status.**

Tim reported that to register as a charity we need an annual income of £5000. However we can register as a small charity with HRMC which would make us eligible to receive gift aid. Tim will pursue this. Paul has had some offers of matched funding if we get the WREN grant.

5. **Gardening**

- At the meeting with the council on Sept 23rd Dave Lewis reported that there will be a management plan for Spencer Park.
- Tim asked if Spencer Park could be a Green Park but Trevor said that this is currently limited to the large parks in Coventry. Tim suggested the trees could have labels.
- The community payback back group cleared a lot of laurel and snowberries in the south west corner on Oct 30th but the ground is still very hard so the roots have not been removed. This will need pick axes to loosen the soil

and get the roots out. We need to get a group to do this. Karen will request a return visit from Community payback.

- Installation of the bug motel will take place on Monday Oct 28th at 10.30 a.m. Karen is advertising it. Trevor and at least two other rangers will be there. We need terracotta and bricks with holes in. Helen can get some sand stones.
- Bulbs will be planted at the next gardening session on Oct. 19th. Further sessions will be Nov. 16th and Dec. 21st 10 till 12.
- Zilpha has been offered some hebes for the park. Paul, and Karen will help dig them out.

6. **Coventry wish tokens:**

Karen has registered us with the Coventry Telegraph wish scheme, which exchanges tokens in the paper for cash. We will put posters up in our windows and put it on the web site.

7. **A.O.B.**

Paul attended the NENA meeting. He told them we needed task groups of people to do activities rather than more on the committee. We need money for bulbs but the meeting did not seem keen to award us money form their surplus.

Kevin Noble has offered volunteers from Coventry University. Karen to follow up.

Trevor was thanked for attending the meeting.

8. **Next meeting:** Monday Nov. 4th.

Helen Elias 9.10.13