

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday 9th January 2017

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reed, , Carol Bayliss,, Anthony Godber, Helen Spence, Carol Alcock and John Plunkett (Albany Crown Bowling Club)

Apologies: Helen Elias, Liz Bayton Scott Crowther, Ken Taylor, Jane Donovan, Dal Singh and Trevor Robinson (ranger)

The Chair welcomed John to the meeting and John told us he would now be our contact.

1. **Minutes** of the meeting on 5th December accepted as true record .
2. **Matters arising: Play Area – anniversary event:** The event was attended by over 200 people and £77 was raised in donations. There were about 18 people who had expressed an interested in getting involved. Anthony said he would contact the people and co-ordinate this group. He is also going to produce a poster for the noticeboard. The container in Allesley Park which looks ideal. Karen to ask Trevor to find costs.
3. **Pavilion:** Richard’s students are working on the plans. He will attend the February meeting. Paul to contact Richard. Pat has been looking at the Big Lottery funding for The Friends of the War Memorial Park and has found out the funds are available for feasibility studies, so it might be a possible source of funding for the pavilion. It is possible to apply foe two strands of funding.
4. **Priorities for 2017:** Pat tabled a draft budget for 2017. Pat will approach Lloyds about online banking. The finance sub-committee of Paul, Pat and Tim was set up and has not met. The **tennis** courts and continuing the community tennis club will be the first priority for 2017. Matthew from the LTA has requested a meeting and Karen and Peter Elias are meeting him at the end of January to talk about the website and ways to promote the tennis club. We will ask the gardener if he is able to moss kill the courts and we will look at the possibility of getting them pressure cleaned for the courts opening in April. Second Priority to trial the maintenance and running of the **Flat Green for a two year period**. Paul to find out the on going cost of maintaining the green, as it will need to be cut. Karen and Zilpha to find out from the gardener if it is possible for him to cut the flat green sometimes this summer. Paul has contacted Mel at Earlsdon Village and will follow up. More groups need to be involved to increase income. Hedging/fencing would be a longer term goal. Possibility of coaching? Paul will contact the organization Different Strokes to canvas interest. Paul is approaching the Freeman’s Guild, NENA and SENA by letter for funding towards the flat green. We need to contact Henry VIII School to see if they could help with the Flat Green as part of their Charitable Status is that they should help the local community. The Third priority will be get fund markings on the old tennis courts. Helen Elias has applied for two grants one from the police which was not successful and one to the Heart of England. It was agreed that funding for this could be a focus of the parents who attended the anniversary event. Ken reminded the meeting that the money £170 donated from the Worldsong event had been ringed fenced for this. The cost will be c£2,000. We would also like a container for storing equipment. This would be a one off cost.
5. **Diary of Events:** Please see attached list.

6. **History Leaflet:** Helen Spence circulated the first draft of an A5 leaflet, Karen will drop off some information she has to Helen. It will contain information on David Spencer and Dalton. The meeting thanked Helen for taking this on.
7. **Funding Opportunities:** We have received a list of funders from Voluntary Action Coventry, the list is long and not very targeted to our needs.
8. **Gardening:** First Saturday of each month. Next session; 4th February; 4th March; 1st April
9. **Albany Crown Green Bowling Club:** John is now the secretary and will be our point of contact. The club has 47 members and Scott is going to be Development officer and will still do events. It was agreed that we would again share a stall at the Earlsdon Festival, as it worked really well last year. The event to promote Tennis and Bowls in the park will be the Saturday after the festival 6th May. John to contact Ann Akerman to let her know he is now the contact and hopefully access to the back door will be possible in the next week. Anthony will do a poster for the Crown Bowls, John to ask Scott what he wants to be included.
10. **A.O.B.:** Carol Alcock asked about the clock, Karen said that someone had been in the park trying to fix it, it is now working but not telling the right time. Zilpha reported that Ann Akerman has said that access to the back door of the pavilion should happen next week as she had seen Ann. Karen to invoice Cllr Hammon for the bench.
11. **Next meeting:** 6th February; 6th March and 3rd April. 2017

Karen Berry 11.1.17