

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday January 8th 2018

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, Carol Bayliss, Pat Ryan, Anthony Godber (committee members) John Plunkett (Albany Bowls)

1. **Apologies:** Jane Donovan, Liz Bayton Trevor Robinson (Ranger),
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Dec 4th. 2017 accepted as a true record.
3. **Pavilion subcommittee:** Richard and Tim have met Ignacio Escobar (40 Broadway), a structural engineer, who made the pro bono offer and is keen to help. Richard Checked with his contact who does not mind discontinuing. Ignacio will be attending the next sub- committee meeting on Monday Jan 15th. at 8pm. Paul would like to open the pavilion before the Year of Culture 2021. Anthony asked if we could get more access to the pavilion so that we can clear and decorate the side room to use for children's parties. We need to meet with Tim Fox, Ann Akerman's replacement. Karen will arrange to meet with him in the park.
4. **Progress on Charitable Status:** This has gone through. We do not need to make any changes to our bank account but will need to put our charity status number on correspondence.
5. **Business Plan for the Park:** Tim felt that we should be part of the planning for the Year of Culture from the outset. Pat has heard of City of Culture charity funding. Paul has looked at Aviva funding which is relevant to the pavilion. Tim stressed the need for a timetable for action. Anthony said that if we can show community demand for the pavilion e.g. Parties, we would improve our chances of obtaining future funding. The pavilion needs to be the focus for activities and we can try to involve more families. If permission is obtained to do up the side room Jane could take the freezer to the tip in her van. The coat rack could be moved into the other side room. Our equipment could be stored in the shower area. Anthony felt the removal of the glass partition would facilitate a coffee room. We need to advertise the tennis city wide and encourage people to sign up early at a lower fee. The tarmac area can be used for table top sales after June (12 months after the installation of the new tarmac). Karen will contact Earlsdon School about their usage of the park. Carol will find contact details for the Earlsdon PTA so we can post notices on their Facebook page. Anthony proposed a Fun Dog show. He and Jane will come up with a date and a plan.
6. **Flat Green:** Paul has contacted the Co-op and the Coventry Freeman's Guild about funding for the flat green. The Coventry Stroke Association want to play fortnightly on Thursday afternoons. The meeting decided to go ahead with the installation of the fencing with a top rail for strength out of current funds and future funds raised would pay for the hedging.
7. **Finances:** Having charity status will help our finances. We have had a tax rebate of 31150. There is £9000 in the bank at present.
8. **Events:** The **Christmas event** went well. There were about fifty families and seventy children participated in the Santa hunt. Ken Taylor was formally thanked for his work as Santa. We need to sell tickets for the **Choir event on March 24th**. There will be seating for 200. We are charging £10 a ticket and need to cover the costs including £140 for the room. The surplus will go to our funds. Jane will do the catering for the choirs. There will be hot drinks and cakes during the interval. Anthony has produced a poster and tickets and will print them off at Rennison press. We need A5 fliers to distribute in Earlsdon and A4 posters. There will be one **Band in the Park** event. We would like a Sunday in July/August - preferably July 29th and not a Bank holiday. Karen to liaise.
9. **Gardening:** This is continuing on the first Saturday of the month. There was a reasonable sized group on Saturday. Zilpha said that the stumps from the felled trees

need to be removed. The concrete bunker needs to be demolished as it is much more visible now. Karen to contact Dave Lewis.

10. **AOB:** The swing seat that was damaged some time ago by a dog (Trevor confirmed it had been bitten and chewed) has not been replaced. Karen to enquire about this. We will hold tennis and bowls events on the Saturday before the **Earlsdon Festival**.

11. **Next meetings:** Feb. 5th. March 5th., April 9th. 7.30pm

Helen Elias 17.1.2018