

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday March 5th. 2018

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), , Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, Carol Bayliss, Anthony Godber, John Plunkett (Albany Bowls) Helen Spence, Ken Taylor.

1. **Apologies:** Trevor Robinson (Ranger), Tim Brooke, Pat Ryan, Jane Donovan, Liz Bayton (committee members)
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Feb 5th 2017 accepted as a true record. Paul has had no reply from his letter stating our position on the Bengali language memorial in the big park.
3. **Pavilion:** Paul reported back from the sub-committee. Ignacio feels that the pavilion might not be structurally sound with an atrium. It might be safer to have an enclosed second floor which would give more flexibility of usage. Jane will be presenting a catering business plan and Pat is preparing a more general one. Karen, Helen and Liz had met with Tim Fox to discuss short term plans for the pavilion. He has agreed to move the freezer out and has a use for the coat rack. He couldn't see any objections to decorating the right hand changing area for use as a children's party area and for our meetings, and will check this with his line managers. Meanwhile Karen felt that Anthony could go ahead with designs for a mural in the room. The scaffolding round the pavilion is in place for the replacement of odd tiles. In the long term a lot of renovation is required.
4. **Flat Green:** The Albany Bowls EGM is at the end of March when they will decide if they want to go ahead with conversion to a second Crown Green. John reported that quotes for the conversion were very high. Paul reported that the original quotes for the Flat Green fencing had underestimated the costs and we are now requiring a higher specification including the top rail and cementing in all posts so that it now comes to £1825 including VAT. We have received two donations adding up to £1500 so with what has already been raised we will go ahead. SENA has also made a contribution. The hedging will probably have to go in later.
5. **Finances:** As Pat was unable to attend we were not given a detailed account, but Karen felt that the finances were healthy. Anthony will look into raising funds through Just Giving online.
6. **Tennis:** Club Spark can now take debit and credit cards. John Sherry will be coaching on May 12th from 10.00 am till 4 pm for the Great Tennis weekend and on May 19th from 10.00 a, till 12 noon for children. He will let us know if he is available for the second Great Tennis weekend on July 21st, but the courts will be open to the public from 12 noon till 5pm. There will be tennis and bowls at the May 5th open day for which cakes will be baked, but not on the 12th.
7. **Events:** Anthony is preparing new Events poster and fliers. Leaflets have been distributed and posters put up for the **Choir event** on March 24th. They still need to go the St. Barbara's Church and other churches as well as the Herbert Art Gallery and the Transport Museum. Help is needed from 6pm onwards including teas and coffees and cakes. We will be selling raffle tickets so prizes are welcome. Tombola prizes are also needed for the Earlsdon Festival stall. The committee decided to hold the **Community Lunch** on June 24th in memory of Jo Cox, rather than to coincide with the Big Lunch on June 3rd. Anthony outlined preparations for the **Dog Show** on Aug. 12th. The RSPCA will attend. He is waiting for a response from The Dogs' Trust and the retired greyhound group. He hopes that Pets at Home may sponsor the event. It was suggested he contact Guide dogs for the blind and Hearing Dogs. There could be an agility event.
8. **History leaflet:** Helen Spence has obtained a quote for 100 copies with a shiny card cover at £85. She would like to sell it at £3 a copy. We will offer them at that price at

- the Earlsdon Festival to see how they sell. Helen is giving a talk about Spencer Park in the summer to the Earlsdon History Group.
9. **Gardening:** The March 3rd session had to be cancelled because of the freezing weather and snow. The next session will be on Saturday April 7th and fortnightly evening sessions from 6.30pm will start on April 12th.
 10. **A.O.B.:** The path from the pavilion to our flower bed has been refurbished without any pressure from us. We will have keys to the new noticeboard in the Big Park. The web site needs updating. It needs a list of upcoming dates and events with the year. Anthony is happy to help with this and would take over the web site if needed.
 11. **Next meetings:** March 26th, April 30th, June 4th and July 2nd.

Helen Elias 6.3.2018