

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday Nov. 6th.2017

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, Helen Spence, Carol Bayliss, Anthony Godber, Liz Bayton, Jane Donovan, (committee members) Trevor Robinson (Ranger) Ken Taylor (Councillor)

Paul thanked all those involved in the organisation and running of the Hallowe'en event. It was a great success with over 300 people attending and over 50 pumpkins. He also thanked Helen E. for her work on the play markings and securing the grant from Coventry Recycling.

Apologies: Pat Ryan, John Plunkett

1. **Minutes** of the meeting on Oct. 2nd. 2017 accepted as a true record.
2. **Matters arising:** We have not heard from Earlsdon School about their use of the park. No comments have been received in response to the ECHO article. Friends have been invited by Ian Harrabin to a meeting of local heritage organisations on Thurs. Nov. 23rd at 12 noon which is open to everyone. Paul and Tim will attend. Funding: Paul and Tim have claimed reimbursement for Gift Aid.
3. **Pavilion working group:** The group held a meeting last week (minutes to follow) Richard has contacted a structural engineer who could do the work and produce a report for £300. Paul reported that there is only a small amount of asbestos in the tiles round the clock, but Karen said that all the tiles were stuck on with asbestos cement. It is likely that Earlsdon will become a conservation area very soon and this will include the pavilion. The electrics in the pavilion are in good order. The Conservation Officer will be coming to the next sub-committee meeting on Weds. Nov. 29th. Anthony asked if we could progress on short term plans to decorate the changing room to make it suitable for children's parties etc. for next summer. Karen felt that we should wait till the new park manager is appointed.
4. **Progress on Charitable Status and appointment of trustees:** Tim had circulated the form to committee members and thanked those who had responded. Those who wanted to become trustees, signed the paperwork. Tim will approach Richard, Pat and John. The trustees will have no financial liability. Ken asked whether we had considered insurance. Paul will ask Ian Harrabin. Tim will send off the completed forms this week.
5. **Business Plan for the Park:** Paul will start this with an outline of our vision including our aspirations and goals. The plan will need figures, but this will depend on our relationship with the council so we will need to wait for information about the new officers which we should know before Christmas.
6. **Flat Green:** Albany Bowling Club have had their AGM. John will report at our next meeting on their decision about a second Crown Green. Paul has applied to One Stop for 32000 for fencing, hedging and maintenance of the Flat Green. We should hear after Christmas. We already have £600 from the Recycling Club towards fencing, but cannot start the work till we hear from One Stop.
7. **Report back from Green Space Strategy meetings:** The meetings were positive and practical and there was good interaction with the other groups.
8. **Funding:** Uptake on Easyfundraising has been low which is surprising as it only involves registering, nominating Spencer Park as the recipient and going through Easy fundraising to the firm you would order online from. Anthony will design a poster for Facebook and the notice board. Paul will approach Waitrose about funding. A question was raised about the Earlsdon Noticeboard outside the City Arms as this would be a useful way of advertising our events. The key is with the optician Michael Harrison, but not many of our notices have been posted. Helen has sent articles and pictures to the

Coventry Telegraph and Observer but has heard nothing. The recycling Club thanked us for our feedback and wished us well. Pat had asked Helen to look into AVIVA funding. We seem to fit the criteria so it might be worth applying for work on the pavilion eg structural survey or business plan. There are four levels of funding - £1000, £5000, £10,000 and £25,000 and it is possible to apply to more than one funding source at a time for different items. Helen gave the information to Paul.

9. **Tennis:** The courts were pressure washed and are in excellent condition so can stay open. Karen will email Ann Akerman to thank her and will remind people not to play on the courts if they are frosty.

10. **Santa event:** Ken Taylor has agreed to be Santa. We can borrow the suit from Hearsall School. Helen has ordered a new beard and wig. Ken will need a belt and black shoes or boots. It was felt that a better place for Santa's chair would be under the trees by the pavilion. The chair will need a blanket. We will need to make sure that Santa does not appear till the children have started the Santa search so that he doesn't get mobbed as last year! Helen will make the clues up to 100. Carol suggested some ongoing activities such as colouring sheets. We can have our games out, particularly the snowman hoopla. We will have soup and hot chocolate, mince pies and fairy cakes. Carol will make some cakes and Jane and Liz will buy the mince pies and sweets. Jane will bring the Christmas tree and fairy lights. Carol will make notices informing people what is available. Sainsbury's have offered raffle prizes such as a Christmas cake and biscuits. They will contact Helen E. We still have the Royal Bengal prize. Zilpha will donate amaryllis bulbs. Local traders will be approached again for prizes. Karen will do the park booking. Carol and Helen will organize Christmas music.

11. **History leaflet:** Helen Spence circulated the completed history leaflet with a section about Friends of Spencer Park. She will circulate it to us for proof reading. It was thought that the print should be bigger. Paul thanked Helen for her work. It was felt that we need a replacement tree to go with the memorial stone for David Spencer. Perhaps the stone could be moved.

12. **Gardening** – Zilpha and Helen S. gardened last Saturday. Next session Sat. Dec. 2nd.

13. **A.O.B.:** Paul will be talking to Andrew Walster on the phone about a statue that someone wants to erect in the park. Helen S suggested that wildflower borders would be attractive in the park either on the Spencer Rd side or on the Recreation Ground. Perhaps Earlsdon School could be involved in the planting. She had been talking to a football coach who lives at 72 Broadway. He said that a MUGA on the rec would be very popular and could raise money if hired out for 5 a side use. Helen reminded the meeting about a notice about the perimeter of the park being a quarter of a mile which might be a more manageable run or walk for some people. Karen has the notice and will put it up..

14. **Next meetings:** Dec 4th.

Helen Elias 8.11.17