

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday Oct 2nd.2017

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

1. **Apologies:** Jane Donovan, Ken Taylor
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Sept. 5th. 2017 accepted as a true record with corrected spelling of Andrew Walster's name.
3. **Matters arising:**
4. **Earlsdon School:** Gary Gascoyne, the school's PE co-ordinator, explained that space at Earlsdon School is very limited and they need more room for P.E. He is very impressed with the facilities at the park, particularly the new playground markings, and would like to bring classes up to the park for P.E. lessons. The school would be very willing to work in partnership with Friends and contribute to gardening and decorating the pavilion. They would most likely to use the park in the afternoons from 1.30 to 2.30pm. The potential for conflict with the general public over the use of the new tarmac area was discussed. It was felt that it might not be an issue, but timetabling would be needed. The school could use the tennis courts for a variety of sports activities after cleaning. The times could be blocked out online. They would like a tennis coach to use the courts on Friday afternoons. They could also use the "Recreation Ground." Karen said that the school should contact Graham Hood as the Council own the park. A lock up container would be needed to store P.E. equipment. The school might be able to contribute to this using the sugar tax money which is going to schools' P.E. Pat felt that we should undertake consultation through the noticeboard, Facebook and the Echo. We would focus on the partnership with the school, safeguarding the future of the park and the need for exercise through P.E.
5. **Pavilion working group:** Paul has contacted Ian Harrabin, chair of Historic Coventry who thinks the pavilion would be best placed with them. He felt it would be useful to have a SENA/NENA joint meeting with Historic Coventry about the pavilion. Chris Patrick, the Conservation Officer, says that the pavilion is not a listed building. We would probably need to preserve the outside of the building. The inside plans are acceptable. The pavilion could be an asset of community value but if Earlsdon gets its Conservation Area status, buildings such as the pavilion will acquire the same protection so it would not be worth applying.
6. **Approval of Draft New Constitution:** Tim presented the new constitution which is necessary for us to apply to be a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The proposal was circulated prior to the meeting for perusal. It follows the model constitution of the Charities Commission and can be presented to the next meeting of the Charity Commission on Oct. 9th. It is currently being examined by VAC. The name of our organization will have to be changed to Friends of Spencer Park as the Council have incorporated the recreation Ground into Spencer Park as a whole. We will need to notify the bank. The general objects will be to improve leisure facilities, promote health and social welfare and increase participation while preserving the nature of the park. As an Incorporated organization, the members have no financial liability for debts. Council Officers could be invited to attend – they would not need to be full members of the Organisation. There must be a minimum of three trustees. The meeting approved the draft constitution so the new constitution was adopted.
7. **Appointment of trustees:** For continuity the trustees need to be appointed for different time periods so that re-elections do not all take place at the same time. The following trustees were selected: Tim, for one year, Paul for three years and Pat for two years.

Appointment of the remainder will be left till the next meeting, giving people time to consider.

8. **Flat Green:** John reported that the Crown Bowling season has ended so that there is now time to consider Albany Bowls interest in the flat green. A proposal to convert it into a second Crown Green will be put to the AGM on Nov. 2nd. The Flat Green is looking good. New signs forbidding other use of the green will be installed soon.
9. **Funding:** Friends is still listed as a charity for donations through the Coventry recycling Club so people were urged to donate their points. We will not know till the time period closes how much money we have for the Flat Green fence. Paul has also put in a bid for fencing to the One stop shop. Not many people have taken up the Easyfundraising option. Helen will send information to Anthony so he can prepare a poster. She will also contact other stores to find out if we can apply for their carrier bag charity schemes as we need money for a container and for the interim painting of the pavilion interior room.
10. **Tennis:** There are now 79 members. The courts are being pressure washed next week.
11. **Events for 2018:** It was decided not to hold an event in February unless there is a sponsored walk involving Earlsdon School.
Sat. March 24th there will be a Spring Concert to raise money for the park with the City of Coventry Male Voice Choir featuring Gresley Male Voice Choir compered by John Glavey at the Methodist Church at 7pm Adult tickets £10. Friends to provide interval refreshments. We need to sell 200 tickets. The hall costs £140 and we need to provide food for the choir.
Friday March 30th. – Easter egg hunt **Sat May 5th**. Tennis and Bowls open day. Dates are not yet available for the Great British Tennis weekend or Bands in the Park. We could do an event in the summer half term. Tim suggested that we get parents to organize a teddy bears picnic.
12. **History leaflet:** Helen Spence had nothing to report.
13. **Gardening** – first Saturday morning of each month – this Saturday Oct 7th.
14. **A.O.B.:** The group photo for publicity will be taken before the **Hallowe'en event** on October 28th. Helpers need to be there at 3pm prior to the events from 4 to 6pm. The **Christmas event** could incorporate the dedication of Councillor Hammond's bench. We need to organize a Santa and suit. Anthony will ask Rory to check out the **hoover** as it does not appear to be working.
15. **Next meetings:** Nov 6th., and Dec 4th.

Helen Elias 4.10.17