

Minutes of the Annual General meeting of The Friends of Spencer Park
Monday June 18th 7.30pm Spencer Park pavilion

1. **Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary) Pat Ryan (Treasurer)
Committee members: Helen Elias, Anthony Godber, Carol Bayliss, Zilpha Reed, Tim Brooke, Jane Donovan, Ken Taylor, Helen Spence, John Plunkett, Liz Bayton. In attendance: Gary Askew, Debbie Riordan, Councillor Kindy Sandhu, Janis Firminger, Gill Brooke.
2. **Apologies:** Ignacio Escobar, Scott Crowther, Carol Alcock
3. **Approval of Minutes of the 2017 AGM, June 19th .:** Accepted unanimously
4. **Accounts for the year ending March 31st 2018 and update on current finances:** Pat Ryan presented the accounts. (See attached) There is currently £3326 of uncommitted money available for spending. Pat was thanked for her work.
5. **Appointment of an independent examiner of accounts:** Colin Scott has done this annually and is willing to continue. This was approved. Proposed Zilpha Reed, seconded Liz Bayton
6. **Chair's report** – (See attached) Paul Smith reported on the increased use of the park, the number of events during the year, the tennis, bowls and gardening and on future plans. Gary Askew expressed concern about the state of the park – the uncut grass and hedges and weeds. He wanted to find out who was responsible for its upkeep. Paul told him that the Council were mostly responsible – the only areas we maintain are our flower bed, the lavender, the roses and the tennis courts. There are only four park staff to cover Top Green, The War Memorial Park as well as the two parts of Spencer Park. They are working to a limited schedule. Ken thought they were doing as much as they could, given the shortage of manpower. Gary suggested a petition or letters from concerned residents to request fortnightly cutting rather than the current four weeks. The areas where people sit should be prioritized. Karen said that we want to get a storage container and need to increase the number of people involved in the Friends group. The Chair's report was accepted as a true record.
7. **Election of Trustees:** Now that we have charity status, we have to re-elect a third of our trustees each year. This year Liz Bayton, Helen Spence, Karen Berry and Tim Brooke came up for re-election. They all retired. The Chair asked if they wanted to continue and they all did. Pat proposed, seconded by John Plunkett that they be re-appointed. The meeting approved the re-appointment of them all.
8. **Election of officers:** The current officers are willing to continue. Paul Smith, Karen and Pat Ryan will continue as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Proposed by Zilpha and seconded by Jane. Passed unanimously. The current committee members – Helen Elias, Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reid, Carol Bayliss, Liz Bayton, Jane Donovan, Helen Spence, Ken Taylor, John Plunkett and Anthony Godber agreed to continue and were accepted by the meeting.
9. **Future of the Pavilion:** Paul reported from the Pavilion sub-committee that Ignacio Escobar, a Broadway resident and structural engineer has produced plans for restructuring the pavilion. He rejected the concept of an atrium in favour of a two storey building that would allow for more meeting space and better fire safety and structural stability. He has contacted a builder to get an idea of feasibility and construction costs. The aim is to preserve the building

and have it available for multi-use by the community. It would take over a year to get funding. The ownership of the building needs sorting out. Jane and Pat are working on a business plan. The results of the survey about the future of Spencer Park will be used in this. Helen Elias agreed that she and Peter would process them. Jane said that she has visited a community café in Bedworth, run by the People in Action charity. She felt that ours could break even but not contribute towards refurbishment of the pavilion or the whole park. A partnership with the Council would be needed. We would need to keep prices down, possibly linking to a community farm or allotment association. Helen E. raised the issue of what to charge for children's parties in the pavilion and where the charge should go as a group have started decorating the side room. This raised a lot of Health and Safety and Fire issues which should have been sorted out before we went ahead with decorating the room and advertising its imminent availability. There would need to be a risk assessment and smoke alarms and fire-blankets/extinguishers and the lack of two exits from the room might be an issue. There would need to be people to open up. The general availability of the toilets was discussed and it was felt that coded locks would be useful for the tennis.

10. **Albany Bowls:** John reported that the Crown Green was in use most days during the summer. A café would be attractive. Albany Bowls are working well with the Friends and are looking at ways of using the Flat Green and contributing to its upkeep. They have a funding committee. They will install gutters removed when the fence was installed and plan to decorate the toilets and the end of the pavilion they use.
11. **Tennis Club:** 72 members are currently registered and the numbers are increasing steadily. The Children's tennis coaching is going well. Our annual fee to the L.T.A. is now at full rate so we need to encourage membership to cover costs.
12. **A.O.B. :** Zilpha, Liz and Jane made £180 at the Street Sale. Plans are in hand for the Aug. 12th Fun Dog Day with the RSPCA and the Dogs' Trust involved. There will be craft stalls and some interest has been shown already. We will be setting up from 11am for the Great Get Together. It was felt that tag rugby for adults would have to take place on the big park and families picnicking would not want to be split up so it was decided not to have it this time. In the future we could have a produce market on the tarmac area and look into improving facilities on the big park for older children.
13. **Next AGM:** to be arranged.

Helen Elias 21.6.18