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 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