

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee
Monday April 30th. 2018

1. **Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, Pat Ryan, Anthony Godber Jane Donovan, Liz Bayton, Helen Spence, Trevor Robinson (Ranger),
(committee members) Scott Crowther (Albany Bowls)
2. **Apologies:** Carol Bayliss and John Plunkett
3. **Minutes** of the meeting on March 26th 2018 accepted as a true record.
4. **Matters arising:** Paul has had no response about the Bangladeshi monument. Tim went to the Heritage meeting. There was a small charge for the leaflets Anthony prepared.
5. **Flat Green:** The fence is up which has led to less children on the green. Scott reported back from the Albany Bowls meeting. The membership are reluctant to take on the large task of fund raising to convert the Flat Green into a Crown Green. However, they will support the Friends group to get the green up to standard for training and matches at a lower level. It will need cutting two to three times a week and conditioning at the end of the season. Ongoing maintenance would be about £2500 annually. They are willing to find raise for these improvements and have volunteers who could work with us. They hope to get funding for the gulleys which are needed for matches. £850 is available from their governing body after three months for the new green. They will be holding events at the Albany Club to raise money. They considered buying a mower and doing the work themselves, but the cost of £5-6000 is a big investment so it was decided for the moment to continue with Paul's contacts. The Friends group will need to fund the privet hedging. Trevor will find out if the Council have any plants. Albany Bowls are forming a fundraising group and would appreciate help from us. They will approach Disability Bowls England and School schemes. Karen suggested The Heart of England. Albany bowls will be painting the kitchen and toilets.
6. **Finances:** Pat made an interim report. We have sufficient for ongoing costs - leaflet production, laminating, posters, web page and paint for the pavilion room. Jane will contact Dulux and Scott recommended the group Community repaint who also donate Dulux paint. The tennis budget is kept separate. We anticipate about £580 in tax rebate.
7. **Tennis:** 40 families have enrolled. Karen is doing the safeguarding course for the LTA required DBS check. It was suggested that we should advertise in the Observer, Coventry Telegraph and local radio. Helen E. has tried all these avenues several times without much success. Paul will contact the Observer. Anthony was thanked for producing the new Spencer Park leaflets. These need folding – some of this can be done on Saturday at the tennis/bowls event. Helen S took some for the library. **Tennis weekend:** This will take place in the park on Saturday May 12th. Pat will be able to open up and lock up as Karen is away but she will not be able to be there the whole time. Helen Spence and Carol Bayliss will also be there.
8. **Events: Earlsdon Festival** This Saturday there will be gardening and tennis and bowls from 10 till 4pm (Coaching from 10 till 12) . On Monday May 7th., Paul will take the tombola items and leaflets down at 9.30 am Helen E. will help with the set up. Helen S, Liz, Karen, Pat, Esther and Helen E will be available during the day. We will have a tombola, hand out leaflets and conduct tennis sign ups. Jane will make up a questionnaire about what people would like to see in the park and how they currently use it. it would include questions about a possible café and pavilion space.
9. **Design for mural:** The room will need clearing and cleaning, then the walls will need filling and rubbing down. After a plain colour decoration Anthony will draw the design onto the walls and then we can paint the trees in. Acrylic paint will be needed for the small animals. The plan is to have the plain painting at least done by the next committee meeting on June 4th. We also. Hope to remove the barrier in the Reception area to create

a more useful serving area. We will then need to advertise the room for parties etc. and need to establish what to charge and procedures such as rubbish removal and tidying up. One committee member would need to be there during the parties.

10. **Pavilion subcommittee:** Albany Bowls are interested in being on the committee. Paul presented the minutes of the last meeting and will send out an electronic version which can be posted on the web site which Anthony is now running. The target for opening the new pavilion is April 1st 2021. The questionnaire will be conducted at the Earlsdon Festival. The costs of a commercial survey are too high and we were unsure if it could be put up on Facebook.
11. **Gardening:** Saturday morning May 5th and Thursday evenings 10th and 24th May
12. **AOB:** Helen S suggested that the Friends could get money for something in the park of lasting value to the Earlsdon community. Paul will contact the Trust. There is a City of Culture meeting at the Albany Theatre on May 15th at 6pm. People who want to go need to phone up in advance. Helen E described a problem she had being locked in the tennis courts while one of her grandchildren was playing in the playground. The rule to lock the courts while playing and when leaving will continue. Scott wants to install a small tea boiler and a fridge in the kitchen. The fridge will need testing. More keys will be cut for toilet access for the bowlers. A toilet roll/towels/cleaning rota will need to be set up. The 3 hour parking limit is not long enough for some bowling sessions. Scott will contact the Council. Trevor reported that the band in the park on July 29th will be The Bandicoots Blues Connection.
13. **Next meetings:** June 4th (In the pavilion) July 2nd.

Helen Elias 1.5.2018