

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee

Monday Jan 7th. 2019

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (secretary), Zilpha Reed, Pat Ryan, Helen Elias, Anthony Godber, Carol Bayliss, Liz Bayton, Debbie Riordan, Jane Donovan, (committee members) Scott Crowther (Albany Bowls), Ken Taylor.

1. **Apologies:** Tim Brooke, Helen Spence, Dal Singh, Trevor Robison
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Dec. 3rd. **Corrections.** Albany bowls said they would help paint the container, not do the whole thing. (Committee members recalled that the Council had said they would paint it) Earlsdon Festival – Albany bowls didn't split the fee, it was covered by the tombola and paid by Friends. **Matters arising:** Container – Zilpha contacted Dan Powell, Tim Fox's Deputy. He says that if we want the container before the council have to move out of Lower Ford Street, we would have to make our own arrangements to move it. If we wait till they have to move all three containers, it might not cost so much, so it makes sense to wait. Bowling – Tim has discussed disabled bowling with VAC. Scott will follow up.
3. **Pavilion:** The Council contacted Paul and undertook an asbestos survey on Dec. 19th. but we haven't received a report yet. They are not committed to the costs of asbestos removal until they find out the costs. If the pavilion is clear we could proceed with the building survey and could then apply for funding. Anthony reported that grants are available for the initial investigations – feasibility/viability studies in the development stage through the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Architectural Heritage Fund. We would then go onto further development funding and finally the big funding for construction through the Heritage Fund who would provide support through the application. He has been advised that we shouldn't sign any leases until after the first development stage. Scott felt there would be funding available from Sports Funding given the bowls involvement. The next pavilion committee meeting is on Jan. 21st.
4. **2019 Events:**
 - Big Love Line (painted stones) taking place in Park Feb 9/10. Discussed possibility of providing refreshments.
 - Friday April 19th. Easter Egg Hunt. Jane will see if Santa stall holders are interested.
 - Saturday May 4th. Family Fun Day connected to Earlsdon Festival May 6th.
 - May 18/19– Great Tennis weekend
 - Bands in Park – haven't got information yet, but we could provide afternoon teas in the summer from May and organize some music/choirs etc. Carol and Jane to investigate.
 - Big Lunch June 2nd. Jo Cox June 23rd. We will support either or both.
 - ? Coventry Pride June 8/9
 - Sunday July 7th Dog Show
 - ? GTP Sports July 27/28
 - Coventry Male Voice Choir concert - September
5. **Bowing Greens:** Scott has contacted disability groups and Stoke Bowling Club and will be the main link. There is interest from the Centre for the Blind. Albany Bowls plans to put a path inside the Crown Green for spectators. The cost of maintaining the Flat Green will be shared between us and Albany Bowls. Karen would like to fill in the gully next to the Flat Green as it is a trip hazard. Earth could be moved from the garden area. Scott said that the bowling greens can be available when we have other events. Scott will follow up with John Plunkett on the combination locks for the toilets.
6. **Funding:** The European City of Sport Fund supports sports linked to culture. The committee could not think of anything we are doing complying with this and there was a feeling that not much money was available. Following the Police sponsored Funding Day which Jane and Helen attended, Helen has applied

to VAC for gardening equipment. She was discouraged by Peter Sturgeon from applying to the Active Citizens Fund for benches in the larger Spencer Park to move the noisy teenagers away from the small park play area and Dalton Rd., as he felt that they would encourage gangs. He felt that this fund would support activities which actively involved young people. After meeting with Cormac Whelan of Positive Youth Foundation which VAC had recommended, Helen decided to put in a bid to the Active Citizen's Fund for the costs of consultation by the Positive Youth Foundation who have good links with young people. Even if we do not get funding we could pursue consultation with young people to find out what they would like to see in the large park. We could look for another source of funding for benches.

7. **Fitness in the Park:** This was not discussed as Dal was not at the meeting.
8. **Echo submission:** Helen had presented a draft which will go ahead with alterations to dates. Nothing else was added.
6. **Finances:** The quarterly bank statement is not yet available so Pat could not present a report. The committee approved that the £200 received from the Earlsdon Festival go towards the cost of planting the bushes round the Flat Green.
7. **David Spencer stone and tree:** Zilpha re-iterated that the proposal to install a new tree and move the stone to between 2 Spencer and the cross park path did not come from us, but from Tim Wetherall. In principle it is a good idea, but we cannot fund it and Tim seems to expect us to apply for funding from perhaps WREN which requires 11% matched funding. Discussions with the Council are ongoing. The small oak tree that was donated to the Park is still at Helen's allotment, but Trevor has agreed to complete the removal of the lime tree on Spencer and the dead oak tree and plant the small oak tree in its place. Helen will follow up on this.
8. **Tennis:** Karen is setting up the new membership. She is checking on eligibility for Gift aid. A rough estimate of out of Earlsdon people taking up membership is needed.
9. **Gardening:** Next session Saturday Feb. 2nd. The stump area adjoining our plot has been left in a mess and needs rotavating and clearing. Karen and Trevor will get a quote from Michael. We need to find interested groups who would like to garden there – possibly either Earlsdon School or Earlsdon Village. The area for the container is now clear and ready for its installation.
10. **A.O.B.** Anthony felt that we need to attract new members, not necessarily for the committee, but people who can lend a hand in working groups such as making cakes, gardening, etc. He will undertake a Facebook and poster campaign in the Spring leading up the AGM which can be more of an event, perhaps in the pavilion.
11. **Next meetings:** Monday February 4th., March 4th., April 1st and 29th. (May meeting)

8.1.19.