

## Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee

Monday Sept 3rd. 2018

**Present:** Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Zilpha Reed, Pat Ryan, Helen Elias, Anthony Godber, Carol Bayliss, Liz Bayton, Helen Spence, Debbie Riordan, Dal Singh, Gurdip Shergill

1. **Apologies:** Tim Brooke, Jane Donovan, (committee members) John Plunkett (Albany Bowls) , Trevor Robinson (ranger)
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2018 accepted as a true record. Matters arising: A grant application for a Coventry City of Culture grant has not gone in.
3. **Chair's report:** (attached) Paul reported that the park had been well used over the summer. He thanked Anthony for the well organised dog show, which increased the diversity of park use and shows that we need more events involving adults. The Parkinson's group using the Flat Green has withdrawn due to illness, but will be replaced by the Resource Centre for the Blind in the Spring. The asbestos will be removed from the pavilion. The pavilion should be a major part of the proposed Arts project for the City of Culture.
4. **Events:** The **Family Fun Day** organized by NENA was cancelled as we were told the Pride event was taking place in the park. It turned out to be in the Recreation Ground part of the park so the Fun Day could have taken place. The pavilion was open for refreshments but was hardly used. There is a need for better liaison from the Council over events in the park. Karen will be requesting a co-ordinating schedule. It was decided not to have a stall at the **SENA Street Sale**, but to sell items at the **Macmillan Coffee morning** in aid of cancer research on Friday Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am. This will be a local event for friends and family as there will be several others in the area. Carol will co-ordinate our event. Cakes will be needed and "real" coffee not instant served. Helpers should arrive at 10.30am to set up. **Pumpkin Parade** will take place again on Saturday Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm. There will be a charge of £1 for submitting a pumpkin for judging and children will be given a sticker for participating. Anthony will judge the pumpkins and Carol the fancy dress. The bat hunt will take place (Karen) and there will be Hallowe'en craft activities in the pavilion.
5. **Using the pavilion for parties and events:** Karen reported that there had been two children's parties this summer, but the room is unheated so will probably only be used in the summer. It would be difficult to have groups meeting on a regular basis as one of us would have to be there and even if we provided heaters the issue of who pays for the electricity would be problematic. The room is too small for yoga or tai chi but Paul felt that they could take place on the flat green in the summer as that would not damage it. It would need to be booked officially. The mural will go ahead when Anthony has the time to plan it out.
6. **Container:** We have been offered a container which is currently in Lower Ford Street. It will probably need more hard core surfacing to stand on and may incur some transport costs. Karen will investigate further its size and condition.
7. **Finances:** Pat presented a first quarter report. The apparent projection is for a £1,350 deficit, but we have £8000 in the bank. We need to get the costs for the Flat Green hedge in order to plant it in November. Paul and Zilpha will do this. Albany Bowls Club said they would raise money for the gulleys. Karen will pursue this. Karen will also contact Michael (the previous groundsman, now self employed) to investigate his mowing charges etc.
8. **Tennis:** We now have over 100 members and some took advantage of the late summer reduced fees. This will cover the Lawn Tennis Association fee of £440 p.a. The next children's coaching session are on Saturdays Sept 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. from 10 till 12. Helen Spence will be there on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> and Karen on the other two days. We need to do more next summer to pair tennis players up perhaps through private messages on Facebook to make it more of a club rather than just small groups playing.

9. **Gardening:** The session on the first Saturday morning of the month will continue. We hope that Trevor will be able to work on the bug wall with children on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be Thursday evening sessions on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. 6-8pm
10. **A.O.B.** Helen reported that an oak sapling had been donated for the park and is currently at her allotment. The meeting felt it should go on the Recreation Ground. Karen and Zilpha will liaise with Dave Lewis about moving it and planting it in November.
11. **Next meetings:** Mondays Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and Nov 5th.