

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee

Monday October 1st . 2018

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Zilpha Reed, Tim Brooke, Jane Donovan , Helen Elias, , Carol Bayliss, Helen Spence, Debbie Riordan, Dal Singh, Gurdip Shergill, Trevor Robinson (ranger)

1. **Apologies:** Anthony Godber, Pat Ryan, Liz Bayton, Ken Taylor (committee members) John Plunkett (Albany Bowls) ,
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Sept 3rd . 2018 accepted as a true record. No matters arising:
3. **Pavilion:** Paul and Ignacio met with the senior asbestos officer, Yvonne Lieming on Sept. 4th. The Council is getting in a consultant to produce a refurbishment report and will pay for the removal of any asbestos. Timing unsure. Karen and Paul are attending a meeting with the Council about their plan to transfer assets and delegate responsibility to a group. to manage the pavilion and possibly the whole park. The sub-committee has looked at ongoing pavilion costs without success. The rateable value is not listed. It should be possible to take electricity meter readings.
Funding – Karen pointed out that the land fill tax funds will run out soon. The Coventry City of Culture money has already been allocated. Although we need a coherent business plan before applying for full funding for the pavilion refurbishment, we need to do preliminary work which entails funding. To have a physical plan we need a building survey which will cost £1000. Jane agreed to contact The Heart of England Community Foundation about funding and look into other sources.
4. **Flat Green and Hedge:** The committee agreed with Zilpha to go for staggered planting in a double row as this gives more strength and depth. At 5 plants a metre round the 148 metre perimeter we would need 740 plants. Bare rooted plants cost between £1.60 and £1.75 each so the plants alone could cost between £1184 and £1295. An additional 4-5 bags of compost are needed. Michael will be submitting a council quote. Karen will enquire if we can place an order through the council as this avoid VAT. Karen will also contact Dave Lewis to see if they have any plants. In addition there will be prior preparation costs of either digging a trench or using weed killer to kill the grass. Albany bowls have not come up with funding sources. Planting should take place at the end of November.
5. **Events:** The **Macmillan coffee morning** went very well and raised £235. About fifty people attended during the one and a half hours and it was a pleasant, sociable occasion. Carol suggested having afternoon tea once a month and this was thought to be a good idea. The **Pumpkin Parade** will go ahead on Saturday October 27th from 4-6pm. Charge of £1 for submitting a pumpkin. Carol will judge the fancy dress. There will be soup, a bat hunt (Karen) and craft activities. A subcommittee (Carol, Jane, Anthony and Helen E.)will meet on Thursday Oct 11th at 1pm at Jane's house to plan the event. **Santa event** – This will take place on Saturday Dec. 15th. As in previous years children will go on a Santa hunt round the park before they visit Santa for a small gift. Santa could be in a grotto in the pavilion room. Helen and Karen to provide heaters. Jane will find out if anyone would like to have stalls at the event as at the Dog event. **Events for 2019** –
 - Saturday May 4th Family Fun Day in association with Earlsdon Festival on May 6th. (Stall)
 - May 12th or 19th Fun Day in memory of Daniel Singh (Dal and Gurdeep)
 - July 27th or 28th GNP Sports Day (Dal and Gurdeep)
 - Dog show
 - Afternoon teas to co-ordinate with other events such as the May 6th garden festival and Bands in the Park as well as ongoing afternoon teas

6. **Using the pavilion for parties and events:** There have been five parties so far at a charge of £10 an hour. We need to ensure that cleaning time is built into the charging period. The expectation is that hirers will clear up and remove their rubbish. We only have to do a final clean up and lock up. Someone should be in the park during the parties. Jane is donating a Henry Hoover and cleaning materials are in the sink area. We can store chairs in the old shower area which will make setting up easier.
7. **Tennis:** Of the 106 tennis club members half of them live outside the Earlsdon area. The plan is to organize it as a proper tennis club, rather than just small groups playing so that people always have someone to play with.. This would need an organizer and a club committee. Paul will open up for the tennis coaching on Oct 6th. This may carry on if there is demand and John Sherry is available, possibly in the half term holiday.
8. **Gardening:** This Saturday Oct. 6th Trevor will be rebuilding part of the bug wall with the help of children while the regular gardening session goes on from 10 till noon.
10. **A.O.B.** The **container** will need a base – probably about 8 flagstones for the corners to allow ventilation underneath, Committee members will keep a look out for these. Jane has a van to transport them. The area also need clearing. The use of brown bins has helped to clear a lot of garden rubbish. These are put out for the bin men to collect. Zilpha suggested that it would be efficient for everyone on the committee to have a **list of contact numbers** and who has which keys. Helen will draw this up. John Plunkett is getting coded locks for the toilets.
11. **Next meetings:** Mondays Nov 5th. and Dec 3rd.

4.10.18