

Minutes of Friends of Spencer Park Management Committee

Monday Feb 4th, 2019

Present: Paul Smith (Chair), Karen Berry (secretary), Zilpha Reed, Helen Elias, Carol Bayliss, Tim Brooke, Helen Spence, Jane Donovan, (committee members) Scott Crowther (Albany Bowls), Ken Taylor.

1. **Apologies:** Liz Bayton, Pat Ryan, Anthony Godber, Dal Singh, Kindy Sandhu
2. **Minutes** of the meeting on Jan 7th. accepted **Matters arising:** The old lime tree has been cut back. Helen was waiting to hear from Trevor, but will contact him about the small oak tree.
3. **Pavilion:** Paul presented a report about the asbestos situation. There is asbestos in the roof cement and tiles, but not of the very severe kind so removal should not be too difficult. However we cannot go into the roof space till the asbestos has been removed which is holding up our plans. It may be that there will be some money for the removal but we will have to wait till the end of the financial year to find out. Paul has had a conversation with Ian Harrabin, Chair of the Coventry Heritage Fund and had a positive exchange of ideas. Ian recommended developing partnerships as we have with Albany Bowls and the Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind. This committee suggested Earlsdon Village, W.I., Criterion and Albany Theatre. Ken suggested possible links with the developers on the Spencer Club site and the rugby/football ground. The idea of us joining Coventry Heritage and renting from them was mooted.
4. **Toilets:** John Plunkett has two combination locks for the outside toilets. Tennis club members will have the combination. Jane suggested a rota for unlocking, cleaning and locking up the toilets during the summer months. We would need to use the existing padlocks last thing to prevent late access and the toilets being left open overnight. Karen mentioned the idea of associate membership giving access to the toilets for a fee of £5. There is also an issue of how the Council workers access the toilets.
5. **2019 Events:**
 - Big Love Line (painted stones) taking place in Park Feb 9/10. Scott will let Jane know if she should open up the toilets and if refreshments will be needed.
 - Publicity event/Big Park clear up of leaves and twigs/branches - Sat. April 13th. 10 to 11 am. Anthony to be asked to prepare posters and fliers. Bacon butties to be given to everyone at the end of the event. Helen to post event on Facebook. Duke of Edinburgh volunteers can be involved.
 - Friday April 19th. Easter Egg Hunt. 11-12.
 - Saturday May 4th. Family Fun Day connected to Earlsdon Festival May 6th. (Stall)
 - Afternoon teas to co-ordinate with other events such as May 6th garden festival and Bands in the Park as well as ongoing afternoon teas. (Carol)
 - Jo Cox Get together June 23rd.
 - Sunday July 7th Dog Show
 - ? GTP Sports July 27/28 – (Dal and Gurdeep)
 - Band in the Park – August – date to be confirmed
 - Possible Sports events – Scott suggested Park Olympics with teams playing at a weekend. Bowling group would be involved. (Could be linked to afternoon teas)
 - Coventry Male Voice Choir concert – September 28th at St Barbara's
 - ? Rock choir
 - Oct 26th Pumpkin Parade
 - December - Santa event
6. **Cultural Ecology Council for Coventry:** This organization had contacted us about our interest and possible contribution, but the committee did not feel we wanted to be involved at this stage.

7. **Bowling Greens:** Scott reported that The Coventry Centre of the Blind has applied for a £500 grant from the Coventry Building Society for equipment and training. The National Bowling Association is supporting this. Scott also said that the Green Keeper, Stuart is willing to advertise Spencer Park Bowling at the Memorial Park. They are also marking out where the guttering will go around the Flat Green.
8. **Funding:** Karen thanked Helen for getting £200 funding for gardening equipment from Coventry4Good (VAC) Zilpha will attend the awards ceremony and purchase the equipment. Helen has not heard from the Active Citizen's Fund about our bid for consultation about what young people would like to see provided in the large park. She is not optimistic, but if funding is not received we can go ahead with the consultation in some form anyway.
9. **ECHO:** Report on park clear up with the bowlers (Karen's photo), Publicity for big clear up. Mention children's parties can restart in summer.
10. **Finances:** Pat and Paul meeting Feb 22nd.
11. **Tennis:** We need a formal agreement with Coventry Council about ownership of the courts as we may not have insurance through the LTA. Karen will talk to Peter and contact Tim Fox. 50% of our tennis membership is from the CV5/6 area which means that half are from outside the area which helps us with future funding bids as it shows it is not just an Earlsdon club. Helen and Peter will collect the netting donated from Streetly Lawn tennis club.
12. **Gardening:** First Saturday of each month. The cleared area is being rotovated next Wednesday. When it is clear we will approach Earlsdon Village or Earlsdon School to find out if they want to maintain it.
113. **A.O.B.** Container – still waiting to hear if the Council can move it across (cheaper option) Pavilion – Jane is planning to smarten up the counter. Good Gym is a group who do exercise combined with work for good causes. They have offered to do work in the park and will clear tree debris, leaves etc. on March 26th 6.15 to 7.30 pm. in the Davenport Rd/Broadway area including the path.
14. **Next meetings:** March 4th., April 1st and 29th. (May meeting)

6.2.19.