**Minutes of The Friends of Spencer Park Committee**

**Monday October 7th. 2019**

Present: Karen Berry, Helen Elias, Paul Smith, Zilpha Reed, Carol Bayliss, Debbie Riordan, Liz Bayton, Pat Ryan, Tim Brooke, Ken Taylor, Helen Spence

1. **Apologies**: Scott Crowther, Becky Gittens
2. **Minutes of Sept. 2nd meeting:** approved
3. **Pavilion sub-group** : Paul reported that Richard is drawing up pavilion plans based on electronic laser measures taken in August, scanning the attic space. Paul is planning to get a meeting together. Pat felt that we need a project manager who can liaise with the appropriate agencies and the council and write bids. Tim suggested the Retired executive Clearing House (REACH) Paul will contact them tomorrow. Karen also suggested that Pete Louden who lives on Spencer Rd. and worked as a City Council Funding Officer, might be able to help. The issue of solar panels was discussed but seemed problematic. We need to keep more evidence that the pavilion could be a business concern. Tim said that it would cost £50, 000 a year to run the pavilion if we took it over. We have not been able to have regular coffee mornings over the summer due to shortage of volunteers. The rota for the parties has not yet been set up. In the short term we need to decorate the other changing room and re-carpet the foyer. This will be discussed with Tim Fox when a group of us meets with him on Oct. 17th. We need to advertise the need for a project manager and more volunteers for a variety of roles on Facebook and in the press as more help is needed to increase use of the pavilion.
4. **Events**: **The Coventry Male Voice Choir/Polish Senza Nome Concert** on September was a great success. A vote of thanks was extended to all those who helped set it up and assisted on the evening. The event yielded £54 from donations, £129 from the raffle and £350 from ticket sales. However, Karen was reluctant to repeat the event as it had been such a lot of hassle. **The Macmillan coffee morning** was attended by 20 – 30 people. It was suggested it could happen on another day as there are so many of these coffee mornings locally at the same time which limits attendance. The **Big Clean Up** is set for Saturday October 19th. from 10-11 with free bacon butties after. Jane is organising the food. The clean up will concentrate on clearing up twigs and branches which will go in the brown bins. Participants should bring brooms and loppers. We should turn up at 9.30 to set up. **The Pumpkin event** is on October 26th. 3.30-6pm. Cakes will be needed and Jane is providing soup. Karen will do the bat hunt. There is a charge of £1 for the t lights – someone will need to collect this. We need to check how many are left. The pumpkins will be placed around the pavilion. The costumes will be judged in categories on the playground area which will need chalk markings. Notices guiding people will also be needed. Liz and Carol will judge. Helen E. will provide the gazebo for the buggy park. There won’t be a craft session but the Hallowe’en masks can be handed out for colouring at home. Help is needed from 2.30pm onwards. **The Santa event** on Dec 21st 1-3pm will be discussed at the next meeting. If Dal can’t be Santa, Ken is willing to do it.
5. **Bowling Greens**: The Crown Green is in excellent condition. The Council worked on the Flat Green in February but he grass didn’t take well due to the hot dry weather spell. The fence has been repaired. The Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind have used it supported by Albany Bowls. They are now playing indoors and plan to set up a league before returning to Spencer Park next summer. A representative of the National Organisation attended and they received money from the Coventry Building Society. No other groups have used the Flat Green.
6. **Tennis**: Karen will be attending a further safe-guarding course in Loughborough. Membership stands at 110. Not everyone is booking online which under-estimates usage. Tim suggested a tennis ladder, but a contact person would be needed for this. A tennis social evening was suggested or this could take place at the Great Tennis weekend. Coaching for next year is unsure. Karen said that the moss on the tennis courts and play area will be cleaned off by the Council.
7. **Summer Activities**: These included party bookings, the dog show, Jo Cox memorial lunch, GGNP games, the tennis weekend, the Easter egg hunt, the Earlsdon Festival, the Macmillan Coffee morning and two bands in the park – The Bedworth Brass Band funded by the Mayor’s Community Fund and the Council’s Bandicoot Blues Band. Generally, the park has been very well used over the summer months.
8. **Gardening**: The area that Earlsdon School took over is not being used. We are waiting for a response from the school. If they do not want to continue with it we could install a seat and grass the area. Thanks was expressed for the excellent hedge cutting by the Council. Gardening continues on the first Saturday of the month. Next session November 2nd.
9. **A**.O.B.: A big container could not be moved into the park and no smaller ones are currently available. Peter and Karen will find out about the furniture on offer from Streetley Tennis Club. The memorial tree for Ben Crowther will be a one that will have golden blooms in September – child cancer awareness month. Zilpha is organising this. Carol will pursue posters for the pumpkin event.
10. **Next meetings**: Monday November 4th. and December 2nd.

H.V.E. 9.10.2019