

## Minutes of The Friends of Spencer Park Committee

Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>. 2020

**Present:** Karen Berry, Helen Elias, Paul Smith, Zilpha Reed, Liz Bayton, Tim Brooke, Ken Taylor, Helen Spence, Jane Donovan,

**Apologies:** Anthony Godber, Scott Crowther, Becky Gittins, Debbie Riordan, Carol Bayliss, Bob Wilkinson.

Paul Smith welcomed the committee, congratulating them on the successful Santa event. Over 200 attended and 95 saw Santa. Particular thanks to the two Santas, the photographer, Carol as elf and Jane and Liz for creating the grotto.

1. **Minutes of Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. meeting and matters not on the agenda:** Approved as a true record. Paul attended the VAC funding meeting which he found very useful. Support is available for our activities as they are community based. The bid for the pavilion would focus on its role as a community resource. We are not eligible for the National Lottery Heritage Fund as the building is not old enough, but we are eligible for the National Lottery Community Fund according to Matt Cox. Tim pointed out that it is not difficult to get funding from Awards for All up to £10,000. This could be used for short term improvements to the pavilion as well as the tennis and bowling greens. Karen has a meeting with the LTA at the park at 10 am this Wednesday. The future of the Earlsdon School plot has yet to be resolved. If the Gilbert Richards Centre install raised beds the existing area, including anything planted, will have to be dug up.
2. **Pavilion cafe :** Debbie had submitted a decorator's quote of approximately £800 for decorating the pavilion reception area and side room. This will have to wait till the leak in the reception ceiling is fixed. The back door lock also needs replacing after vandalism. Karen is following up on both. Karen felt it was feasible to open up some of the windows to improve the rooms. However the front upper window has rotten frames which need replacing. The feasibility of a summer café would depend on the number of volunteers. A rota could then be set up. The café would be minimal – just tea, coffee, drinks and ice cream and would probably open for about three hours on a Saturday or Sunday.
3. **Pavilion sub group:** Paul, Tim, and Richard met with volunteer Lisa Odedra. She emphasised the need for having clear objectives in funding applications. She emphasised the need for a survey to identify community priorities so they can be reflected in our funding applications. It was pointed out that this was done extensively about two years ago and showed a clear demand for a cafe. Helen E will track this down and circulate it. Paul will distribute the sub committee's minutes.
4. **Volunteer event:** This will be held on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> from 2 till 4pm. Setting up from 1pm. Anthony has made name badges so we can be identified as committee members. The event will advertise the work the committee has done. Helen S will bring the park booklets she wrote. The proposed pavilion plans will be in the room. Anthony will be asked to prepare display posters inviting people to come and see us. Karen has handouts. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided and both rooms will be open. The event will be advertised in Your Call, The Echo and relevant Facebook pages. Karen will contact those volunteers who have contacted us (about seven)

5. **Income and Expenditure for 2020:** This was deferred till Pat is present so she can present her case for accountable project cost centres.
6. **Priorities for 2020 :** £750 for the Flat Green has been approved for this year. Tennis is a priority. Refurbishment of pavilion service areas once repairs on leak are done. Need for new chest freezer and cupboards. We will hear result of £500 Lottery Bid at the end of the month.
7. **Events 2020:**
  - Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>. **volunteer event** (See above)
  - April 4<sup>th</sup>. – **Big Clean Up**
  - April 10<sup>th</sup>. – **Easter Egg Hunt**
  - May 8<sup>th</sup>. – (Friday Replacement Spring Bank Holiday V.E. Day. No Earlsdon Festival) We will hold a **community family event** with craft stalls, café with our cakes, possible hog roast – Paul to contact William Leigh, possible Morris dancing – Helen E to follow up. Jane/Anthony to advertise on Facebook for stalls.
  - LTA **Tennis** weekends - May and July. Karen is unsure if our ongoing tennis coaching can continue due to tightened regulations and shortage of coaches. She is reluctant to go the Inspire2Coach route.
  - **Dog show:** Move to the end of June ? June 28<sup>th</sup> before school holidays. Application to Mayor's fund if available.
  - **Band in the Park:** no date yet. Karen will request August.
  - **Community Big Lunch/Jo Cox:** Neighbourhood picnic in park July 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Pumpkin event:** Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - **Santa event:** Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. Helen E to investigate pop up gazebo for buggy park.
8. **Training events:** Zilpha will attend *Introduction to Ecology* on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. Karen attended *Volunteer management* Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Karen will recirculate the list of events. If anyone else wants to attend.
9. **Gardening:** Jan 4<sup>th</sup>. , Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. 10-12 Good gym Jan 18<sup>th</sup>. – Zilpha would like them to level the Earlsdon plot and remove ivy. If it is too muddy they can sweep up leaves, branches etc.
10. **A.O.B.:** Proceeds of Zilpha's snow drop opening on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 11-3pm will generously be donated to the upkeep and promotion of Spencer Park.
11. **Next meeting:** Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

H.V.E. 7.1.2020