Minutes of the Friends of Spencer Park Committee Meeting by Zoom

March 1st 2021

**Present:** Paul Smith, Karen Berry, Helen Spence. Helen Elias, Ken Taylor, Debbie Riordan, Carol Bayliss, Tim Brooke, Peter Elias, Zilpha Reed, Nigel Johnston, Lynn Ritchie, Anthony Godber, Jane Donovan, Pat Ryan, Dave Chater (Albany Bowls)

1. Apologies: Dave Lewis (Parks), Liz Bayton, Becky Gittins

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|  |  | Action needed |
| 2**.Minutes** of Feb 1st meeting and matters arising | **Defibrillator** – **Helen E** and **Kindy Sandhu** have not managed to get a reply from the relevant contact.**Window Wanderland** - **Helen E** thanked **Karen** and **Carol** for decorating the pavilion. She also thanked **Tim** for watering the new turf round the picnic table.**Flat Green** proposed changes to the minutes  | **Helen E** to continue to investigate**Helen E** to check notes |
| 3**.Pavilion** – status of business plan and renovation progress | **Pau**l reported that with three new members to the sub-committee good progress was being made. **Nige**l has volunteered to be project manager. There have been two very focussed and practical meetings since the last main committee meeting. **Peter** reported on the strategic plan (previously circulated) The items in step 1 are mostly completed so they are moving on to step 2 to negotiate the transfer of the pavilion to Friends of Spencer Park. A document will be negotiated with the council setting out the transfer arrangements. It will not be signed immediatley but used as a basis for moving on to step 3**. Paul** felt that **Richard’s** plan (previously circulated) could be used for planning building works. **Paul** has met with **Aaron Dennis** (catering manager at University of Warwick) who is very positive about a community cafe**Peter** stressed the need for a thorough feasibility study before we move forward. Funding is needed in two stages – development and the main work. **Pat** said that lottery money up to £30,000 is available for the development stage **Tim** felt it was £10,000**Ken** stressed that the Cassidy firm is willing to help so contact them when appropriate. | **Paul** to ask Aaron to prepare an outline plan for the next sub-committee meeting  |
| 4.Flat Green – discussion about funding and supporting the flat green | **Costs** – **Dave C** said that Albany bowls have not yet heard what they have to pay for 2021 and both bowls groups are asking for a reduction as the work wasn’t done fully last year. When the covid rules relax on March 29th. outdoor bowls will be allowed. **Paul** felt that as there will be less cost this year we should carry on with the Flat Green and referred to his paper (previously circulated) **Anthony** said that we need to discuss funding which was initially for two years. He feels that the Friends should not continue to spend money on the Flat Green to maintain it as a functioning flat green. It should be used as a multi-functional area that is bookable, so remains locked to avoid vandalism. **Jane** agreed and suggested the money could be used on the pavilion refurbishment. **Zipha** suggested that we ask the public what they want. The green could be kept as a multi-function area which only requires ordinary cutting. **Paul** said that covid had caused the problem of the green deteriorating. **Anthony** and **Jane** said there was insufficient use of the park in the previous year to justify the expenditure. **Carol** said that there has been a shift during covid in the people using the park. There are now young mums and young children and a demand for a cafe and we need to be creative about the uses of the Flat Green. **Helen E** asked if we needed to go to a vote on fuding of the Flat Green. **Dave Chater** said the Flat Green needs a lot of money to convert it including the installation of gutters. **Paul** suggested we would discuss it at the next meeting when we know how much we have to pay the Council. **Tim** said we need to find out potential income from the Centre for the Blind. **Ken** felt that as there were a maximun of ten people involved who were not there every week we should not maintain the bowling green on the basis of the Centre for the Blind. **Debbie** felt we could use the money for a cafe and could use the area for a variety of events including children’s parties. **Karen** said we will vote at the next meeting and people should send their views to her before then**. Zipha** supported this. | **Committee members** to submit their views to **Karen** about continued funding of the flat green and possible other uses. She will present this at the next meeting |
| 5. Tennis | **Karen** reported that **Tim Fox** is getting the courts pressure washed and may do the play area. This should remove the moss. The council may cover these costs. The last quote was about £2000. Tennis can restart on March 29th. in line with covid relaxation and Karen would like to increase family membership to £30. She has updated the safeguarding policy which was approved by the meeting..  |  |
| 6. Catering-using the pavilion | **Karen** said use of the pavilion will be possible after June 21st. She has already had requests for parties. **Helen S** felt the date could be earler and will prepare a risk assessment. **Jane** will co-ordinate a working party to clean/tidy up the pavilion when we are able. Also to plan what we will serve as a take away.  **Helen S** said plastic screens are cheap and it should be possible to organise take aways across the main pavilion door without letting people in. **Peter** said that it is important to open the cafe as it is a crucial part of the business plan for the pavilion. Feedback is needed as evidence of need. | **Helen S** – risk assessment**Jane-** Cordinating cafe working party |
| 7.Developments for the Recreation ground | **Helen E** said that the installation of play equipment for up to ten year olds was the first part of a strategy to improve facilities for all young people. She has become personally aware of the lack of local facilities for 10-14 year olds and the lack of seating by the tyre swing and basket ball hoop in the Recreation ground which discourages adult carers taking children there. As the first stage towards improving play facilities she has applied for funding from the Heart of England helping Hands charity and the Cole Trust for a steel park bench, in the context of encouraging more families to use the Recreation Ground. The next stage will be to find out what equipment children want, how much it costs and what funding is available. The meeting approved this and **Lynn** and **Jane** offered to help out.  | **Helen E** to contact Lynn and Jane with a plan of action for play facilities in the Recreation Ground. |
| 8.David Spencer Stone | **Karen** said that the consensus of opinion was that it should be moved near to the tennis courts. A miniature oak tree had been proposed by **Zilpha** and the meeting approved this. | **Karen** to organise |
| 9.Trails and decoration in the park-  | **Karen** said that Earlsdon School will be installing a trail for World Book Day and **Carol** agreed to plan similar activities for the summer. | **Carol** to plan and liaise. |
| 10. Any other business | **Lynn** felt that with the end of lockdown in June, it would be possible to use theyoung people from the National Citizenship Service perhaps to interview young people about facilities for age 10+ children. This was agreed.  | **Lynne** to liaise with the NCS |
| 11, Date of next zoom meeting | Monday March 29th. at 7.30pm as April 5th is Easter Monday. |  |

Helen Elias 2.3.21