



FRIENDS OF SPENCER PARK

Registered Charity No.1176323

Friends of Spencer Park and Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting 2021

Spencer Park July 17th. At 2pm.

Present: Helen Spence (Chair), Karen Berry (Secretary), Pat Ryan (Treasurer), Carol Bayliss, Helen Elias, Ken Taylor, Dave Chater, Tim Brooke, Zilpha Reed, Liz Bayton, Gill Brooke, Peter Elias, Alan Blundy, Julie Elements, Lois Luckett, John Westwood, Gordon Thomas, Mohammed Al-Mansoor, Ayesha Al-Mansoor, Miriam Wood, Julius Daunoravicius, Nadia Shuaib.

1. Welcome by the Chair of the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Paul Smith, Jane Donovan, Anthony Godber, Debbie Riordan, Lynn Ritchie, Councillor Anthony Tucker.
3. **Minutes of the previous AGM** of Sept 12th 2020 were accepted as a true record. Proposed, Karen Berry, Seconded, Carol Bayliss.
4. **Chair's report:** Tim Brooke referenced the Annual Report he had written on behalf of the trustees (attached). He reported that Spencer Park had been tremendously successful during the covid pandemic and had been a lifeline to so many people of all ages. Although events could not be held, the dog show and pumpkin parade were held online. The Good Gym has continued to clear leaves and weeds and we were involved in Window

Wanderland and had an Easter picture trail in the park. The west flower border has been maintained beautifully thanks to Zilpha and her team. Money was raised for a defibrillator and for benches in the Recreation Ground. Donations have paid for the installation of a wheelchair accessible picnic table and a bench and funding was given for four bike stands.

5. **Appointment of Trustees:** Liz Bayton, Karen berry, Tim Brooke and Helen Spence agreed to continue as trustees.
6. **Appointment of officers:** Following Paul Smith's retirement as Chair, Helen Spence agreed to act as Chair. (Proposed by Karen Berry and seconded by Ken Taylor and approved by the meeting). Karen Berry is willing to continue as Secretary. Pat Ryan will be retiring as Treasurer at the end of the financial year as she feels a new person is needed who can carry through with the finances connected with the pavilion development. She is willing to train someone who could shadow her. There were no volunteers at the meeting. Tim felt we needed to discuss the skills needed at our next committee meeting and Pat felt we should advertise it in the ECHO.
7. **Accounts for the year ending March 31st 2021** and an update on current finances. Pat referenced her annual financial report (attached). Although we have not had income from our events, there have been some donations and income from the sale of masks. There is currently £8000 in the general fund and £11,000 from tennis memberships earmarked for future improvements to the tennis courts. The pavilion entrance has been decorated prior to the weekend opening of a volunteer run cafe . A bean-to-cup coffee machine will be purchased. The trial run to indicate demand for a cafe in the pavilion business plan. Dave Chater suggested that Jane should talk to him prior to purchase or renting as he has contacts in the catering field. Jane has discussed this with Aaron Dennis, a senior catering manager at Warwick University.
8. Colin Scott will continue as the **Independent Examiner of Accounts**.
9. **Future of the Pavilion:** Peter said that the plans are now in the development stage, preparing for an application to the Lottery Community Fund. This involves –
 - Obtaining the costs for refurbishing the pavilion. Four organisations have been asked to bid.
 - A feasibility study. We will need to get an organisation in to examine the documentation.
 - A legal review. This is virtually completed. The Council will produce a letter of intent transferring the pavilion lease to Friends

of Spencer Park but we will not sign it until we secure funding.

The letter of intent will allow us to make applications.

The total costs for this stage will be £5000. Sharon Thomas of the City Council has agreed to support this pending full committee approval. We hope to put in a funding bid in the Autumn. The project meets the requirements of the Lottery Community Fund, access to which is very competitive.

10. **Albany Crown Bowls Club:** Dave reported that they have had seven league teams this year, down from nine due to a drop in membership. They will be holding free trial sessions in August to attract new members. The financial situation has improved and there is still a grant from Sport England for both greens. This Friday at 11 am Albany Bowls is hosting a session for the Resource Centre for the Blind. Pat stressed the need for close co-operation with Albany Bowls over plans for the pavilion as it will affect storage facilities. Previous attempts to obtain a container for sports and gardening equipment have been unsuccessful, but it now needs to be a priority. Ken suggested contacting Cassidy's.
11. **Tennis:** Karen reported that we now have 138 family members. 60% of these live locally. There are problems with the padlock on the court. Four have been broken this year so the courts are currently unlocked. If tennis club members find they cannot access the court they have booked they should report this on Club Spark, but so far there have been no problems. There is a possibility that the LTA might pay for a gate entry locking system. In the meantime Karen is looking into obtaining a more resilient padlock. The LTA have quoted the cost of £10,000 per court for necessary improvements. This does not include new fencing. The LTA might contribute towards the improvement costs.
12. **Plans for this year and next year:** Karen reported that the pop up cafe run by volunteers will start soon. The dog show will be held in September and the photo competition will be judged at the end of August. Bands in the Park takes place in Spencer Park on August 1st. There will also be a Macmillan coffee morning. Julie said that her folk group would be happy to perform for free in the park. She will send Karen dates. Carol said that the park will be decorated in August and September in gold and yellow with ribbons and sunflower pictures on the Pass the Smile theme. Helen E said that Friends will be surveying young people's views on what they would like to see in the Recreation ground in preparation for a funding bid. The play equipment in the small park is really only suitable for children up to about ten. Lynne will be working with young people in August gathering views and a survey will

be sent out. The new benches in the Recreation Ground are a precursor to this as we hope they will attract more parents to accompany their children.

13.**Any other Business;** Zilpha gave a vote of thanks to Karen for all the work she does for the park. The meeting applauded this.

14.**Next Annual General meeting:** A Saturday in June 2022

Helen Elias 18.7.21