

Minutes of Leechwell Garden Association Committee Meeting

Thursday 1st April 2010. Leechwell Cottage

Present: Sue Holmes (Chair), Ed Vidler, Robert Vint, Janet Mitchell, Dave Mitchell, Jim Carfrae, Wendy Reid, Jeannette Willington

1 Apologies: Shirley Prendergast, Alex Whish

2 Minutes of LGA Meeting 8th March 2010 : Agreed

3 Matters arising:

We now have a design sketch and quote from Mike Jones for the play area. We have received the latest planting plan from Charlotte Rathbone.

Ed reported that SHDC is unable to put our payments through their books, but with help from the Plymouth University voucher scheme TDT will register for VAT in order to recover VAT paid.

Sue consulted Jackie Francis on the Stage 2 documents needed. Jackie has circulated everything that is necessary for SHDC to sign.

Disappointingly the press release has not yet been published. Marianne will be asked to check that it goes out in the next issue. **SH**

4 SHDC Meetings:

Ross has proposed an annual open meeting with SHDC, LGA and all the residents of properties adjoining Leechwell Garden in order to review the use of the garden and any issues arising.

Robert has discussed the matter of parking for the disabled with Ian Hoskin of SHDC, who proposed relocating the two designated spaces from the top to the bottom of the car park. Moving or adding a ticket machine is not ruled out but it would be expensive. No final decision has yet been made on either option by SHDC. We agreed to move forward with the former proposal and to defer discussion of the latter. Sue will contact Alex. **SH**

At the Partnership Meeting on 31st March, it was proposed that SHDC and the Public Art Group come up with a public art policy and procedure to be adopted for any money being allocated for public art.

LGA will set up a meeting with SHDC and PAG to discuss public art policy, the decision making process and the allocation of Midas £5K. **SH**

5 Opening hours:

SHDC has asked the LGA to decide what would be appropriate and reasonable opening hours for the Garden.

It was agreed that opening hours should vary according to the seasons of the year. Dave will look into this and report back at the next meeting. **DM**

Sue is to approach the Town Council to see whether it would be possible for them to employ the caretaker to open and close the gates. **SH**

6 Progress in Garden:

Work is progressing according to schedule and the contractors expect to be off site in three weeks time.

Some trees have been planted.

In response to Jim's warning about the sharpness of the stones on the beds of the pools, a more foot-friendly material will be used.

Dave continues to put work-in-progress pictures on the web-site.

7 The Pool;

Following a visit from English Heritage we have learned that they will not give us funding for the pool.

Further archaeological investigation of the Pool area is necessary.

A joint application for the Pool area and the Leechwell from the Heritage Lottery Fund is still a possibility. This would come in Phase 3.

8 Site Visit:

On 22nd March members of the Committee, Alex Whish and Peter Randall-Page visited the Garden. Commissioning a sculpture from Peter is a possibility, and it gave him the opportunity to consider the site. He was most enthusiastic, particularly about the water features and the Pool area. As the latter is scheduled to be developed later, funding for a sculpture there would be part of Phase 3. Funding allocated for public art in Phase 2 could therefore be used to commission other sculptors/artists.

Jim's suggestion for a competition was well received and will be included in our application.

After lunch at Leechwell Cottage, courtesy of Janet and Dave, the Committee had a short discussion on current issues.

9 Stage 2 Application:

We need to get the draft application to Jowanna Lewis by 12th April in order for her to check and to return it to us for any amendments. The deadline is 28th April.

The Memorandum of Agreement from SHDC is required for the application. Sue will impress upon Alex that this is urgently needed. **SH**

All other documents are in hand.

Dave has kindly volunteered to collect, collate and turn into document form the sections of the application form completed by committee members; also the supporting documents. **ALL**

Sue will check the draft before Dave sends it to Jowanna electronically on 10th April.

Mark Chapman, former Chair, may hold the signed copy of the LGA Constitution. Sue will ask him for this. **SH**

10 Questionnaire analysis:

Shirley and Gillian Dunn have produced a most full and comprehensive thirteen page analysis of the Leechwell Garden Consultation feedback, including the results of the November 2009 survey. This is valuable evidence for the application.

It was noted that 'a most striking feature was the extent to which respondents felt that community wishes had been successfully interpreted in the garden plans'.

We have have a remarkable response to our request for volunteers. Seventy-one

people have expressed willingness to help in a range of activities.

Dave has posted information about the results of the questionnaire onto the Leechwell Gardenn web-site.

Jeannette will e-mail members thanking them for their response to the questionnaire and volunteer list, also directing them to information on the web-site. JW

11 Community contributions:

We are receiving offers of plants for the Garden. It was suggested that we should make a list of things we are interested in having and circulate this.

We welcome the evident wishes of the community to become actively involved in the project. It may be possible that anything surplus could be given to Totnes in Bloom, who are acting to improve open spaces in and around the town.

We have accepted the offer of an oak garden seat from Jeremy and Lorette Logie.

12 Correspondence:

Sue has replied to an e-mail from Mark Chapman regarding some items in the minutes from LGA meetings.

Sue also replied to a letter from Gill and Evan Pugh expressing their wish to be on the LGA Committee and asking when the AGM will be held.

The required twenty-one days notice for the AGM will be given when we have completed all the work required for the funding application.

AOB

Signage:

SHDC have a policy on signs; they should be pictorial rather than in words and if text is used it should be positive. e.g Dog Free instead of No Dogs. Where possible they prefer to use an icon.

SHDC will provide all the signs required. At present we are not considering what we might need.

Bins;

These will be provided and emptied by SHDC

Town Council:

We appreciate the support and encouragement given by the Town Council over the years. Now that the garden is taking shape, we are sure that the Council will recognise it as an important new addition to Totnes' civic amenities, and that we can depend on their interest and involvement.

When the contractors are off the site we hope that a special occasion can be arranged for the Town Council to visit the Garden.

Next Meeting Stage 2 Application. 10.30 pm Saturday 10th April
at Leechwell Cottage

Committee meeting. 2.30 Wednesday 21st April at Leechwell Cottage

