

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 3rd October 2018 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Roma Church, David Martin, Shirley Prendergast

1. APOLOGIES: Lu Overy, Keith Rennells, Frances Gillmore, Pete Taylor, Jeannette Wellington

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 5th September were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Dave welcomed Roma to the meeting and she agreed to be co-opted back on to the LGA Committee. The old bench removed by SHDC has now been disposed of. Keith has been paid for the work he has done for us over the last 6 months.

4. RHS Affiliation

Dave handed over the RHS Information pack, Garden magazine and Discount Card (for visits to RHS gardens at Rosemore, Wisley etc) to Shirley.

5. FALLEN TREE REPLACEMENT

Following the collapse of the twisted willow overnight on 21st September, SHDC very promptly chopped up the trunk and the branches into logs and piled them up beside the sand pit. Some were taken by visitors and EarthWrights removed the rest.

The stump remains however and we need to ask SHDC (who have a stump grinder) to remove it.

Action: Keith to ask SHDC to do this

A replacement (perhaps another twisted willow) is needed. It was decided to ask Keith and Alex Whish if SHDC could source this.

Action: Keith to consult with Alex

6. SANDPIT

Shirley consulted with Earth Wrights about the problems with the cover (not easy to fix so cats can't get under it. They suggested a new, larger cover, which would cost £180. It was agreed we should order it from Earth Wrights (might take 6 weeks). We need to ask SHDC to clear the sand from the pool and stream before it blocks drains. drains clear the current mess (sand in the pool) and wait for the new cover before tidying the sandpit getting new sand delivered. Shirley has put a notice in the Grove School newsletter and a Saturday morning meeting with potential helpers (to clean the sandpit once a month, raking and applying Milton as a disinfectant) will be arranged.

7. SUSIE'S GATE APPEAL

The appeal notice in the Totnes Times and on the main gate have not so far raised much in the way of donations.

The current state of the appeal fund is:

LGA donation	1000
Personal donations:	1130 (7 donations)
TotSoc	200 promised
John Birch (SHDC)	250 promised
Robert Vint (SHDC)	400 promised
Total:	2980

It was agreed we needed to look for further sources of funding. Dave has still not heard from Jaqui Hodgson and since Peter Taylor is not back yet we don't know how much help he will give. It was agreed to ask Lu to put the appeal on the LGA FaceBook page.

Action: Lu to add to FaceBook

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8. GARDEN NEWS

The next big task is to redo the herb garden. First the herbs will be moved to the beds along the wall. Then the herb garden will be cleared and replanted with plants chosen for easier maintenance. While it is clear access to the top of the pergola will allow the roses on top to be chopped off (and one of the roses removed completely).

It was agreed to ask SHDC once again when the paths can be repaired – this is urgent and should be done over the winter.

Action: Keith to remind SHDC.

9. SHDC NEWS

None.

10. AOB:

The picnic table notice needs replacing (Dave has the document used to create it). David Martin had tidied the shed and he and Dave moved the donation box to a more noticeable position on the wall beside the main gate Roma thought we should have new notices about donations and agreed to draft them and send the text to Dave.

Action: Dave and Roma to make notices.

Children have dismantled part of the dry stone wall in the corner of the garden behind the 3 Guardians. Some of the stones ended up in the pool. We need to fix this – storing the stones somewhere safe until the wall can be rebuilt.

The RHS Pennant Award (awarded collectively to several gardens in Totnes) was a silver gilt this year (instead of the usual gold). The Leechwell Garden **did** win the Monk Trophy for the “Best use of Native Plants Indigenous to the area”.

NEXT MEETING: The next Committee meeting will be on **Wednesday 7th November 2018** at the REconomy Centre, Leechwell Street, starting at 6pm.

Action: Dave to reserve room (**DONE**)