

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 4th July 2018 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Frances Gillmore, Pete Taylor, David Martin, Jeannette Willington, Shirley Prendergast

1. APOLOGIES: Lu Overy, Keith Rennells

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 22nd May 2018 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

David Martin had looked at the elastic cords on the sandpit cover but had not managed to do anything to make them easier to use. It was agreed to ask Keith to pursue the matter (with Earthwrights?). David had put a note on the noticeboard reminding visitors to ensure the sandpit cover was on when they left

David had also fixed a step outside the pumping shed (which made things much easier for Jeannette and Frances).

4. RHS INSURANCE and PENNANT DAY (13TH JULY)

Dave showed the hand-out he had produced for the visit. Diana Cusack has since sent out a revised timetable – the Leechwell Garden visit will start at 10.35 and should last 20 minutes approximately. Dave, Shirley and Jeannette all agreed to try to attend.

Dave has submitted an application form to the RHS for affiliated membership. He has received our membership number (29419929) and we should receive more information when the direct debit payment for £120 is processed (around July 14th).

5. SHDC UPDATE

Keith (who was in Wales) had nothing to report.

6. SUSIE'S GATE

Dave had circulated the two new designs before the meeting. Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed to adopt design 1 (the one with the three lilies). Pete agreed to contact Spencer to establish:

- exactly how much it would cost (including installation) so we can plan the fund-raising
- when it might be installed so we can plan an opening ceremony

Pete also agreed to check with Spencer how high the opening was (it looks around 2 metres) and to make sure that the gate could be locked with a padlock from inside the garden. It probably needs a means for fastening it against the wall when it is open. It wasn't clear if the "Susie's Gate" inscription was on both sides of the gate.

Shirley agreed to dig out history about Susie's involvement with SOS/DOS and the Garden Design process and Dave agreed to contact Judy Westacott (current mayor) to let her know what we were planning and ask if she could help in fund raising. Given Spencer's estimate of £4500 - £5000 and the agreement that the LGA would contribute £1000, we will need to raise at least £3500.

Neither Dave nor Pete had done much about the text to go on a wall plaque beside the gate, but there's plenty of time to sort that out.

8. GARDEN NEWS

Jeannette and Frances are happy with the new extendable hose. They report a possibility of new, younger volunteers. Shirley and volunteers cleared the (knotweed-free) part of the pool area near the gate and cleared the two ponds in the main garden of weed (hopefully without disturbing the newts).

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AOB:

Shirley reports that she paid £156 into the LGA Account this month from sales of plants and books from the stall outside her house.

Dave checked with the Bay Horse Inn, the quiz on Monday 14th January 2019 will be in aid of the LGA.

Jeannette (and David) reported problems with teenagers from the Totnes Language School using (boisterously) the play equipment (which is designed for children 12 or under). Jeannette volunteered to meet with staff at the language school to discuss the issue.

David Martin reported that a team from SHDC had removed the teak bench near the shed and replaced it with one made of heavy plastic coloured and textured to look like wood. Given that it (like all the furniture, gates, sculpture, pergola) belongs to the LGA rather than SHDC, it was felt this was extremely worrying – particularly with no consultation. Shirley agreed to investigate with SHDC and get the old bench returned.

NEXT MEETING: The next Committee meeting will be on **Wednesday 8th August 2018** at the REconomy Centre, Leechwell Street, starting at 6pm.

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