

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday March 5th 2014 6pm Fire Station Community Room, Totnes

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair); Shirley Prendergast; Jeanette Craig Willington; Louise Overy; Susan Taylor; Jim Carfrae; Catherine Munro; Marsha Cummings

APOLOGIES: Elizabeth Warnes; David Martin; Susan Boyd; Keith Miller; Ed Vidler.

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the LGA Committee Meeting held on the 6th February 2014 were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Jim was to speak to Cathy to arrange the next opportunity for the LGA to have a quiz at the Bay Horse. There is no slot available until next year but Jim will check to see when that can be.

Action: Jim

Shirley has prepared and circulated an application to the Paige Adams Fund for £280 for planting for the wild flower garden and the herb garden and will send off the application tomorrow.

With regard to the buying and planting of apple trees, Liz will notify Keith of which trees have been chosen. It was hoped that the Council might do the planting but it still has to be decided where the trees will go.

4. SHDC Update including License Issue:

With regard to the matter of the paths, Keith says that the weather has been against us and the path spraying and resurfacing hasn't be done yet but the Leechwell Garden is on the list to be done. **[update: work has now been done - 9th March 2014]**

Dave Mitchell has received an email from Keith about the licence. Keith has spoken to Ross and he is suggesting a meeting between LGA and the representatives of the other groups. Various matters have to be discussed and the license is still being finalised. Lou had heard that the matter was still with SHDC legal department. Keith is inquiring again about the completion date. There has been no answer as yet from SHDC as to whether LGA's arrangements relating to the garden can remain informal. There can be no progress until a meeting with Ross and the other interested parties.

5. Benches/seating update

Mike Gardner of Woodmanship says the seating should be finished by the 24th March. Though Woodmanship will fit them, there needs to be a meeting to decide where the seating should go. Shirley said that this was tricky because the seating would need to be in the long grass so that no mowing would be needed in the area and so the seating would not have to be moved around for mowing. We may need to discuss this with Ross. SHDC are ordering the benches to save VAT. The snake bench has been made already. If we obtain funding from Paige Adams that will free up some money which can go towards the seating.

It was proposed to ask Mike to come to the garden and look at the possible areas for fixing the seats. It was suggested that next Wednesday or the following Wednesday would be good.

Action: Shirley

Shirley suggested that when the seating is in place, we have a small childrens' party as a celebration and invite the makers. We could include their name on the list of people and organisations who have been involved with the garden.

6. Pool Area – English Heritage and Scheduled Monument Consent

Jim, Shirley, Dave Mitchell and Dave Martin have had a meeting regarding the application for Scheduled Monument Consent. The application should be done in a staged way saying what LGA proposes to do and then what we hope to do and asking for consent for exploratory work. There are things LGA can say we want to do now such as planting. The next meeting on the 18th March at 6pm at Shirley's and if anyone else would like to be involved they are welcome to come along. Dave Mitchell and Jim are looking at the documentation and what will be required.

Shirley is doing a draft of the form but is still waiting to hear from Pru Boswell. The application could include the Leech Well or it could be done as a separate application. Shirley has spoken to someone from the Preservation Trust which is really interested and would like to be involved with the restoration of the Well. Ian Franklin of the Trust is meeting Shirley next Wednesday. Shirley will let Pru Boswell know in case she wants to come.

The Leech Well looks a mess at the moment and Susan has cleared some of the litter and has spoken to the dog warden. Who is responsible for sweeping the leaves in the lane where the Well is?

7. Kids' Corner and Totnes does the Big Dig

Kids' Corner is run by Rachel who will continue with the gardening club. She had been working on it today.

Susan said she was not happy that Catherine appeared to think we should tidy the area but Catherine said that she had assumed that Rachel would do this.

It was agreed that someone should keep an eye on the area because it has looked awful and it is immediately visible when you enter the garden.

The children involved with the area are very small nursery school age and the area may not be appropriate for them to look after. Catherine suggested that it might be better to look for another area for them to use which could be smaller and contained in some way. Lou suggested that it would be useful to meet Rachel and discuss this. The children could work on raised/movable beds and a raised bed in the existing area would be better than the current arrangement.

8. RHS Pennant Award Entry

Catherine would like to get LGA on board for the Pennant Scheme. This is a new RHS in Bloom Scheme and because it is the 50th anniversary of RHS in Bloom and the centenary of the First World War the RHS is encouraging golden and field poppy planting. The judging and trail will be as previously and Catherine can send the details. Judging will be July/August. Catherine will find out exactly when. The judges look for:

- Community participation (40%)
- Environmental responsibility (30%)
- good horticultural achievement (30%).

It is National Gardening Week from the 14th to the 20th April and RHS are promoting this. It would be good to do the planting for the scheme then. We could plant poppies for the centenary and golden coloured flowers such as sunflowers for the Britain in Bloom.

LGA is not taking part in Totnes does the Big Dig.

9. Cash Box Replacement

Everyone agreed that David Martin had done an excellent job painting and mounting the box provided by Ed. Liz and Lu will empty the box on a daily basis. Lu was given a spare key for the purpose. Shirley agreed to take the money from the cashbox to the bank.

10. AOB

The Lottery award was discussed. LGA could apply. Winners get £2000 and an appearance on TV. Dave Mitchell will circulate the e-mail he has received regarding the award and will get last year's entry out so that people can see that. The cut-off date for applying is the end of this month.

Catherine said that the Grove School wanted to bring tadpoles from their pond to the Leechwell Garden while works are going on at the school. It was thought that the tadpoles would be safer in the pool in the grassy area beside Moorashes.

Susan raised the question of people with dogs using the garden and suggested that if anyone saw someone with a dog in the garden, they be kindly invited to use the grassy area near Moorashes.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Association is on Wednesday **2nd April 2014.**

Note: we have agreed to pay the Fire Service for each meeting (£3 for a one hour meeting).