

**MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 6pm at the REconomy Centre**

**PRESENT:** David Mitchell (Chair), Jeannette Willington, Shirley Prendergast

**1. APOLOGIES:** Lu Overy, Keith Rennells, Frances Gillmore, Pete Taylor, David Martin

**2. MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 were approved.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:**

none not covered below.

**4. SUSIE'S GATE**

Steve Peacock of the Totnes Times should be publishing the appeal in this Friday's issue of the Totnes Times (**note – for some reason this did not happen – hopefully next week?**). We will be using the main LGA Bank Account (the name change of the Playground Fund still hasn't happened). So far we have raised about half of the £5000 and Spencer Larcombe has been given the £1500 he needs to start work. Dave will put a copy of the appeal notice in the Notice Board box outside the gate this week. Dave has responded to Paul Church's request for clarification about the ownership and maintenance of the gate (since the **existing** gate is the property of the Heath Way residents) - the LGA accepts full responsibility for the gate which will be owned and maintained by the LGA.

Dave pointed out that the path entrance at the top of St Katherine's Way is very overgrown – we need to tidy it up.

**Action:** who could do this?

**5. MAIN GATE**

Dave contacted John Churchill about the problems closing the main gates. It appears that the pintles supporting the right-hand gate (ie furthest from Heath Way) have moved, resulting in that gate being tilted over. John has promised to take a look, but if he can't repair it then Dave suggested that we ask Spencer to fix it (by removing and then reinserting the two pintles) – he will have to do something similar for the new gate.

**6. SEATING PROBLEMS**

Mike Gardner of Woodmanship has repaired the seat which collapsed and offered to tidy up the 'chess board seat'. David has spoken to Scott Woyka about repairing/strengthening the free-standing bench – it would have to be transported to his workshop in Falmouth – the cost (including transport) could be anything from £150 to £300 so perhaps we should look for someone local to do the repair?

The Logie seat that was removed by SHDC is currently at the SHDC Maintenance Depot - it was agreed (with the consent of the Logie's) that we should ask them to dispose of it.

**Action:** David to instruct SHDC

**7. SHDC UPDATE**

Keith sent this note:

Stone path resurfacing - as reported last month, am awaiting a response Alex/Rob re finding resources to do the repair that we have specified, involving new edging boards and binding the top dressing into the base coarse.

Wood chip path resurfacing - I'm told it was done earlier in the summer, which I find it hard to believe, as most of the upper part is empty. It can't all of washed away! Someone has got confused! Also now very weedy - we discussed this on site on our raking day. We decided no point in topping up again with wood chip until weeds removed, so was going to ask SHDC for assistance, either direct labour or money for us to take someone on, to remove them. Chasing on this too.

Japanese Knotweed in pool area - as reported this week, first chemical application earlier in the summer, a second dose due in the next week or so. (**we need to check this happens**)

Sand pit cleaning - was straightforward and seems to have been a success, and if we can manage it, would propose we repeat procedure every few months. Having access to water was a massive help!

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Dave had asked Keith how much we owed him for the work he has done this year. He responded by saying that he would be happy with £262.50 (he's prepared to donate to the LGA half of the 21 hours he spent). Jeannette will arrange payment and the committee agreed to thank Keith for all his efforts on our behalf.

**Action:** Jeannette to pay Keith

### 8. GARDEN NEWS

There have been two successful sessions tidying the area near the steps down to the path to the new gate and a special session to clear the hogweed from the bank. Keith has suggested rotavating the flat strip in the middle of the bank for flowers could be planted – he may be able to get some SHDC money/assistance for this.

The new round beds near the shed have been planted with red poppy seeds.

### 9. SANDPIT

1. The sandpit has been raked and cleaned (by LG garden group) according to ROSPA guidelines. This was something that needed to be done regularly.
2. Good news is that there was little rubbish and no sign of contamination by cats.
3. David and Pam reported that sandpit was mostly covered before the garden closed at night but cats could and did crawl under the cover
4. Shirley has contacted EarthWrights about how to make the cover more efficient and will liaise with them.
5. Children are migrating sand into the nearby pools and stream. This needs to be removed very soon before it creates blockages.
6. Our feeling is that these are essential elements in the functioning of the sandpit and it would be good to involve users/parents in its care. Shirley will see if Grove School might help with this.

### 10. AOB:

Shirley paid another £113 into the LGA Account this month – this year we have raised £1000 from sales of plants and books from the stall outside her house (many thanks to Liz for her sterling contribution). Currently the LGA has around £4000 in its account.

Jeannette noted that it was time to order bulbs for planting.

**Action:** Jeannette, Lu, Shirley to discuss

Jeannette also noted that the roses on top of the pergola needed a hard pruning – it's tricky to access them so she thought that SHDC ops team should do it.

**Action:** Keith to ask SHDC

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Committee meeting will be on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October** 2018 at the REconomy Centre, Leechwell Street, starting at 6pm.

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