

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 9th August at Totnes Fire Station.

1. Present: Jim Carfrae[chair]; Robert Vint; Janet Mitchell; Stephanie Parker; Roma Church; Liz Warnes; David Mitchell; Sue Holmes; Jill Tomalin

2. Apologies: Ed Vidler; Alex Whish; Lorette Logie; Wendy Reid.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting: Rosies' name is MUSGRAVE not Musgrove. Otherwise confirmed as accurate.

4. Matters Arising

i) Laminating and lecterns, issues remain outstanding.

ii) Tools now purchased - but prices have gone up. Total spent £552.

iii) Dead trees still outstanding - but suggested we leave replacing the magnolia in the pool area until the garden design is confirmed.

iv) Tai Chi going well.

v) Compost bins not wanted - but will SHDC remove rubbish and compost it themselves? **Ed** to take up with SHDC (and if they do, can we have some of the compost??).

vi) £500 available from sustainability grant for an event, could be used to celebrate installation of artwork.

vii) Uncertainty about whether Community Spaces contract allows drawing down of money without invoices (if below £500) which may give additional flexibility. **Jim** to clarify with Ed.

5. Reports

Pool Project: report circulated by Jill confirmed. Jill is trying to involve Charlotte in the design meeting, and will ask SHDC/Alex if they will pay for/towards this.

Herb Garden: Susan Taylor is taking responsibility for wild flowers, alongside Jeannette and Roma. **Roma** to request Alex to ensure bank beyond remains unstrimmed.

General Garden: Pool area needs to be strimmed - **Roma** to raise with Alex. **Wendy** has previously been asked to seek schedule from Alex of maintenance work and monitor this - **Roma and Wendy** to liaise on this.

Volunteers: Roma planning to speak with CVS, seeking people with particular expertise. Possibly ask volunteers to adopt an area of the garden. Roma was congratulated on the way she ran the last volunteers' session.

6. Advisory Committee.

Following incidents reported at last meeting, it was agreed that **Jim and Lorette** would identify the main police contact, report the experiences/issues, and secure confirmation that the correct action is to contact the police when facing anti social behaviour. Information then to be provided to residents/key holders re the number to call, and the circumstances in which it is appropriate to do so.

7. Activities and Events.

The committee recognised we cannot prepare the season of events in advance, and agreed that all events/activities other than volunteers gardening activity, should continue to be submitted to SHDC as event applications. **Jill** to confirm to Keith.

8. Information/Queries from Ed

i) c£1400 still available from Lottery money grant - well done Jim for keeping us within budget in this way.

ii) Shed still awaited from SHDC - **Roma** to chase.

iii) sustainability grant position and issues relating to the Community Spaces contract to be

discussed at next meeting - **Jim** to circulate pdf of contract and **Sue** to re-circulate list produced in June of actions needing to be fulfilled.

iv) License - no further information from Ross.

v) We need to identify data on the numbers of users of the garden through informal surveys.

Dave to organise.

vi) Signage - Ed has chased Keith twice! Suggest **Ed** provides Robert with information to get Robert to pursue in the corridors of power!

9. Alan's Resignation

Alan has decided to withdraw from the group because of time pressures. His offer to repay the cost of his minute taking course was cordially declined!

Robert too is facing pressure of work. It was agreed that he would remain on the committee for the time being, but limit his involvement in the minutiae of our activity.

10. Edible Plants

A request to incorporate edible plants was made via the Development Trust meeting. All happy to add edible plants if they work with our larger aims, and suggested we seek advice from TTT about suitable plants. We should also bear in mind when developing Moorashes. **Jim** to take back to Development Trust meeting.

11. Future funding

The recent TotSoc quiz at the Bay Horse raised £140. **Jim and Dave** to speak to Kathy about holding one for the Leechwell Garden later in the year.

12. Public Art

The visit to Rosie's confirmed good progress - she is likely to be finished by end August. Rosie has large slings capable of carrying the stones to their position. Following a wide ranging discussion about who needs to be involved in the practical installation process, and when and how to celebrate the unveiling, it was agreed that:

Installation

i) SHDC will need to be responsible for managing the installation

ii) the stainless steel expert will need to be present, and paid.

iii) we should aim for installation in the week prior to 16th October.

Jim and Janet to pursue this with Alex to confirm suitability of date, requirements.

Unveiling Celebrations

iv) The proposals from Steph, Catherine and Roma were all supported. They are considering cold herbal drinks; baked finger foods; a volunteers table and area to donate money; copies of the walk map being available; a poet, harpist or guitarist; and using the "like" button on Facebook.

v) Grove School should be invited to participate, using the figures produced with Helen Sands if available. **Roma and Steph** to contact Hilary Priest.

vi) **Jim** will approach Matt Harvey to invite him to officiate and provide a poem

vii) **Jill** available to help on admin side, drawing on previous experience

13 Any Other Business

i) *Peter Randall Paige Spout*: submission for Public Art £5k has gone to Ross via the Development Trust. If this money is secured, the committee agreed we should aim to raise the remainder of the money required to fund the spout as part of the Pool project.

Janet was congratulated on her efforts in securing this offer from Peter.

ii) Sue has been asked by the TIC to conduct walking tours around the three new gardens at the end of September.

NEXT MEETING: 5.30pm, TUESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER, VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED.

Advance apologies from Jill.

Note from Sue subsequent to meeting:

I should have pointed out that SHDC and not LGA are responsible for management issues in Leechwell Garden, and these include "not permit anything that would cause a nuisance" (this would cover all the issues raised) and "not obstruct access to premises" (this would cover closing gates early). Therefore any meeting with the police and Heathway Residents over these issues, including when to call the police, needs to be led by SHDC. We can facilitate the review meeting - as Robert did last year (minutes attached) - and attend, but the lines of responsibility need to remain clear.