

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
10th February 2021 on ZOOM

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Shirley Prendergast, David Martin, Lu Overy, Sue Holmes, Jeannette Willington

1. APOLOGIES: Keith Rennells, Philip Strange

2. MINUTES: the minutes of the meeting on 9th September 2020 were largely ignored!

3. MATTERS ARISING

Sue noted that at the last meeting Philip had seen a noticeable reduction in pollinators (bees etc.). She volunteered to produce some cutting from Heath's Garden to transplant in the Leechwell Garden.

4. FINANCIAL STATUS

Jeannette had provided details of our finances as of the end of 2020 (attached). Although these look healthy Jeannette noted that we currently have no source of new income and won't until plant sales and donations via Shirley's bookstall restart. It was agreed to continue funding Ross.

The need for fundraising was clear but no-one had any constructive suggestions except for the possibility of an event (in the Autumn?) like those we used to run – with refreshments and tables selling books and other donated items. Sue suggested that we should look back at the last 4 or 5 years and try to see what the average annual expenditure was (ignoring the big one-off projects as that would allow us to budget for the future.

5. HEDGE CUTTING

There was some discussion of Ross's suggestion of hedge-laying but the committee agreed with Keith that a general cutback was better since the hazel had grown so high it made parts of the garden quite dark. Wendy (in a phone call) pointed out that the tree behind the 3 guardians sculpture was currently threatened by the hazel. It was agreed that this was a job for the SHDC ops team and Sue (who has arranged for them to do things in Heath's Garden) agreed to talk to them (Rob Sekula etc). Sue's notes are attached below.

6. NEW SIGN FOR THE "HERB GARDEN"

Jeannette suggested that we should now call this area the "Pergola Garden" since it is no longer filled with herbs as it was. We agreed it made sense for the new sign **not** to be a map of what plants were there but to be about the 'history' of the area and how it came into being. Shirley agreed to draft some text. It was also agreed that small markers to identify the plants growing there would be helpful to visitors (with the advantage that they could easily be changed when new plants were introduced.

7. PLANT SALE TABLE

It was agreed that the Plant Sale Table should be refreshed by early March if possible.

8. POOL GARDEN BOUNDARY

Those present agreed with Keith that we should keep the fence in place to allow the meadow to properly establish itself.

9. OCTOBER CELEBRATION EVENT – HELEN SANDS

Shirley (and Dave last year) had been in touch with Helen Sands (who designed and ran the garden opening event in 2010) about her plan for a Leechwell/Brutus celebration procession through the town and the Leechwell Garden on October 3rd (Sunday afternoon). She is working with Grove school and St Johns and hopes to get Arts Council or other funding. An LGA representative(s) is welcome to join her planning group which has its first meeting via zoom on Feb 22 at 5pm.

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10. AOB

Due to time pressure and Dave's cockup in setting up the ZOOM meeting, we did not discuss the 'sand pit/water course' agenda item. We did agree that the waterlogged nature of the lawn around the drain was almost certainly due to the exception rainfall lately.

NEXT MEETING: No date was agreed at the meeting but Dave will suggest dates (probably in mid March).

Action: Dave to circulate dates

Note from Sue Holmes about Hedges:

On the subject of the overgrown hedges, we agreed that I should approach SHDC to arrange a meeting as hedging is their responsibility. I have just emailed Rob Sekula to set up the meeting as soon as possible. Before then, I want to clarify that:

1. We want the hedges to be cut back in height and width, but not to be layered
2. The hedges in question are those that mark the boundaries between Leechwell Garden and Dave's garden, the houses on Maudlin Road and Heath's Way.
3. These might require different treatment
4. What might be best, given the short period between now and the beginning of the nesting season, is to ask SHDC to carry out limited internal width cutting back, with more drastic pruning left until the autumn when we will have had time to consult residents whose privacy might be affected
5. At the meeting with Rob, we need to agree with SHDC a re-instatement of regular cutting/trimming, including the removal of branches on other trees where necessary
6. Once I have a meeting agreed, I will let you all know and anyone who wants to join us, you are very welcome

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This is a brief outline of LGA Accounts for the year January 1st to 31st December 2020

BALANCE 31st December 2019	£5026.93
PAID IN	£7476.96
PAID OUT	£7774.98
DIFFERENCE	-£ 298.02
BALANCE 31st December 2020	£4728.91
BREAKDOWN	
INCOMINGS SHDC (Pocket Parks)	£6218.49
Donations	£1258.47
Total	£7476.96
OUTGOINGS	
Park Life (Keith & Andrew)	£5473.76
Benches (Plastics Co.)	£1158.36
RHS subscriptions	£120.00
Tyre Deck repairs (Earthwrights)	£510.00
Gardener (Ross Adams)	£330.00
Others	£182.86
Total	£7774.98

Note: Donations raised were mainly from the sale of plants, books, garden ornaments and masks, including £30 from TRESOC. They may not continue at this level during 2021.

Work by Keith and Andrew (Park Life) was funded by SHDC from Pocket Parks Grant. Currently there is no further grant funding.

Jeannette Willington