

**MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 6pm at the REconomy Centre**

**PRESENT:** David Mitchell (Chair), David Martin, Keith Rennells, Jeannette Willington, Shirley Prendergast, Frances Gilmore

**1. APOLOGIES:** Lu Overy, Jim Carfrae, Marsha Cummings

**2. MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 were approved.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:**

All of the matters arising from the last meeting, as well as those raised at the special meeting held on March 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Play Facility opening have been dealt with. The committee thanked Keith for providing and David and Keith for planting the new trees that will obstruct the view of the play structure from the houses at the lower end of Heath Way.

**4. SAND PIT COVER**

All agreed that the sand pit has proved very popular. With only a couple of exceptions it seems the cover has been put on after use each day, so it was not felt necessary to do anything about this. Sand has been 'leaking' onto the surrounding grass and Keith said that Richard from SHDC should periodically rake the sand as part of his job and he would ask him to sweep sand back into the pit when he did the raking. Shirley mentioned reading about a disinfectant solution designed for sandpits that could be applied periodically to reduce the chances of infection and agreed to circulate information about it.

**Action:** Keith to talk to Richard at SHDC  
Shirley to circulate a weblink

**5. DOGS IN THE GARDEN**

Both Dave and Shirley had encountered a small group with a dog in the garden who refused to take the dog outside. In Shirley's case they would not even tie it to a gate. Dave suggested that if someone refuses to take the dog out or tie it to a gate then they should be photographed (the garden is a public space and taking photographs is entirely permissible). This at least would document that there was a problem. Keith said that if the problem became a serious issue he would raise it with SHDC.

**6. THE SOLAR WATERING SYSTEM**

Jeannette and Frances noted that though the system works, it will only power a pump for 20 minutes (and needs a couple of days at least to recharge). What the garden needs is a system that will pump water through a hose for 1 to 2 hours at least once a week. Dave had talked to Guy Metcalfe about the issue and Guy had proposed an upgrade to both the PV panel and the battery, costing some £450 (see quote attached). The current PV panels are only 3.5W whereas Guy is proposing to fit a 50W panel, and replacing the current NiCad battery pack with a lead acid one that can store at least 10 times as much power should solve the problem. It was agreed that Dave should contact Guy to tell him to go ahead with the upgrade since we have the funds to pay for it.

**Action:** Dave to inform Guy Metcalfe

**7. AGE SIGN ON THE PLAY STRUCTURE:**

It has already been agreed (following the accident shortly after the opening) that there should be a sign on the play structure indicating that its is designed for children between 5 and 12 years of age. Keith agreed to follow up with SHDC.

**Action:** Keith to contact SHDC

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**8. AGM DATE AND PUBLICITY:**

It was agreed that the AGM should be held on Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup> at the REconomy Centre (in place of the next Committee Meeting). Dave agreed to reserve the room and publicise it on the website and Shirley agreed to draft a notice (including a call for volunteers and new committee members) to put up on the garden notice board. CVS and the U3A were noted as organisations that should be contacted.

**Action:** Dave, Shirley and Keith

**9. AOB:**

Frances and Jeannette mentioned the hogweed which is running riot on the bank above the lower group of houses on Heath Way. Since skin contact with hogweed can cause a rash it was agreed they should be strimmed as a matter of some urgency, so Keith agreed to get the SHDC Operations Team to deal with it when next they strimmed the lawn.

Dave agreed to append a brief report on the Play Structure Opening to these minutes.

**Action:** Keith to contact SHDC

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be the AGM to be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm at the ReEconomy building in Leechwell Street.

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

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**Report on the Opening of the new Play Facility**

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 the new £30,000 play facilities in the Leechwell garden were opened by representatives of Totnes Town Council and South Hams District Council (Councillors Judy Westacott and Peter Smerdon respectively). The Grove School Choir performed several songs to an audience of over one hundred parents and children. The LGA provided soft drinks, cakes and biscuits and a good time was had by all as the photos below show!



Above: the 'fort' with slides, ropes and wobbly bridge.

Above Left: the dish roundabout

Right: the Grove School Choir

Below: the sandpit



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# QUOTE

**GUYMETCALFE**  
ELECTRICAL WORK AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Q170501



Guy Metcalfe  
The Old Forge  
Harbertonford  
Totnes  
TQ9 7TA  
07525 809267

**Date:** 03 May 2017

[guy@metcalfe5.co.uk](mailto:guy@metcalfe5.co.uk)

**To:** c/o David Mitchell  
Leechwell Cottage  
Totnes

Work at Leechwell Garden  
Upgrade of Solar PV water pumping system.

**Materials:**

50 W Solar panel	1	£	55.00	£	55.00
Charge controller	1	£	10.00	£	10.00
Lead acid leisure battery	1	£	54.00	£	54.00
Time lag switch	2	£	16.68	£	33.36
Fuses & holder unit	1	£	11.40	£	11.40
Cable	1	£	12.00	£	12.00
Connectors	2	£	2.40	£	4.80
Timber	1	£	24.00	£	24.00
Sundry	1	£	12.00	£	12.00
		£	-	£	-
		£	-	£	-
		£	-	£	-
		£	-	£	-
		£	-	£	-

Labour: £ 238.00

**TOTAL** £ 454.56