

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
5th February 2020 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Sue Holmes, Shirley Prendergast, Lu Overy, Roma Church, Keith Rennells

1. APOLOGIES: David Martin, Jeannette Willington, Pete Taylor, Philip Strange

2. MINUTES: the minutes of the meeting of the 5th January were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Keith had provided Sue with a key and handed over the key for Philip to Roma.

4. WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN

Philip suggested Saturday July 11th or Sunday 12th July as possible dates for the Bee Concert. It was agreed that when a date was settled we should make the concert part of the event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the garden's opening.

Philip also noted that the bee house had been tampered with again and suggested that the notice should perhaps mention that bees sting!

5. SANDPIT ISSUES

David reported that the sandpit was frequently left uncovered and that the cover was not easy to handle when wet. Following Keith's comment about finances (see para 7 - below) it was decided that funds could be spent putting the sandpit right (improving the posts used to hold the cover in place, replacing the edging, topping up the sand and possibly adding sleepers as seating). It was agreed that Keith would organise a meeting of interested parties to look at this (and other garden improvements). The possibility of moving the sandpit further away from the pools could also be considered. Once the sandpit had been put right Shirley's suggestion of getting a group of parents to look after it was agreed.

Action: Keith organise a meeting

6. WILLOW REPAIRS

It was agreed that Ross Adams had made a good job of tidying up the willow structure. Lu had advertised the pile of cuttings that people might like to take away. Roma said that Ross could make some improvements, adding layers, though this time we would have to pay him for the work.

7. FINANCES

Keith reported that there was a sizeable surplus left in the grants to repair the path (a bit over £4000). Keith's meeting (see para 5 above) would look at the various ways the money could be spent, including pool area seating (see para 8 below). We were not quite sure how much was currently left in the Pool fund, Dave agreed to ask Jeannette for the current figure.

Action: Dave to contact Jeannette

Sue noted that given the ending of organised work in the Lamb Garden there were tools there that the LGA could have.

Keith also noted that Civils (the company who repaired the path) had agreed to come back and reshape the edge abutting the garden – there was a definite difference in level which could cause people to trip.

8. POOL AREA SEATING

David had supplied a list of possible suppliers of wooden benches. Keith had found a supplier of recycled plastic benches which were similar in design to two of the benches David had mentioned and would last much longer. He agreed to circulate information about them to the committee.

Action: Keith to circulate

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9. MAINTENANCE

Philip wondered how we could ensure that the wildflower bank did not get strimmed by the HSDC team while still in flower as it was last year. Keith said that the simplest solution was for the LGA to take over that part of the job of maintenance. He agreed to talk to Mark at SHDC to arrange this.

Lu noted that someone had cut the brambles and roses down to the ground along the garden wall – nobody had any idea who might have done this but it was noted that the brambles definitely deterred teenagers climbing over the wall so we need to make sure they regrow.

10. AOB

Lu noted that the majority of the bulbs the LGA had planted had not sprung up. It was agreed that in the Summer we should plant more.

NEXT MEETING: No date was agreed at the meeting so Dave will circulate possible dates.

Action: Dave to circulate dates