

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2013 at Totnes Fire Station.

1. Present; Roma Church (chair); David Mitchell; David Martin; Liz Warnes; Shirley Prendergast; Susan Taylor, Catherine Munro; Susie Boyd; Jeannette Willington; Marsha Cummings;

Apologies: Keith Rennells

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: Confirmed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

Given the lack of time and suggestions, it was decided we would not apply for the £2000 Lottery Grant. Roma announced that recent plants sales and donations had raised another £173 (Susan agreed to give it to Ed). Shirley has raised another £45 from her latest History Walk (total now £170)

4. Transfer of Responsibilities following Roma's 'Resignation'

Roma announced that Lu, one of the regular volunteers, was happy to take over Roma's role as Volunteer Co-ordinator, though she wasn't yet ready to commit to joining the Committee.

Shirley, who has been supply plants for the plant sale, is happy to take over that job. It was agreed that more compost could be purchased from Memory Cross. Jeannette offered pots (which will be kept in the shed). Shirley will also take over Roma's email list.

Liz agreed to look after the plant table and collect donations from the 'honesty box'.

Catherine agreed to look after the Notice Board, Leaflet Box and Blackboard (the notice board key will be kept in the shed). It was agreed we should try to get a good, solid donations box that can be fixed to the wall near the gate.

Roma will ask Lu to look after the Facebook page.

Action: Roma

Dave agreed to act as Chair until the next AGM and Marsha agreed to take over the Secretary job of writing up the minutes from the next meeting.

5. SHDC Matters

Susan and David had met with Keith Rennells on Tuesday 10th September to discuss various matters. Keith agreed that SHDC

- will put up the remaining bird boxes if LGA can assist by identifying suitable locations
- will cut back the wildflower meadows in late Sept or more likely October
- will seek to amend the grounds maintenance schedules in order to include regular mowing of path edges
- will be cutting meadow in September/October and would like volunteers to assist raking the cuttings.

Action: Keith to circulate date.

Susan raised the question of overflowing/flooding of the lower pool. David said he understood why this happened and what needed to be done to unblock things. He agreed to write up some notes on this which could be put up in the shed. **Action: David**

SHDC will be cutting the meadow grass this month and would like the volunteers to help collect the clippings (rather as they helped with the yellow rattle planting).

There was some discussion of late night intruders (who climb over the wall near the notice board) and what SHDC could do to deter them (prickly plants?).

Shirley pointed out that the benches in the herb garden were showing signs of wear and wondered if the supplier (Scott Woyka) could carry out some repairs. It was suggested that Jim (who had commissioned the benches from Scott) should be asked if Scott had any responsibility to do this - Dave will contact Jim about this.

Action: Dave

David said the Picnic table and Play Structure were showing signs of wear too. According to Keith, the Play Structure is inspected by SHDC on a monthly basis, and SHDC's insurer Allianz inspect twice yearly. It is showing signs of wear and due to the nature of the material it has a finite life span. At some stage it will have to be adjusted/removed. No spares are available!

6. Pool Report

Shirley outlined her letter to Keith Miller (the EH officer looking after the Pool) in which she was asking for approval for our decision not to move the path in line with his suggestion and for a clear statement of exactly what consent we currently have to do work on the pool. She was still waiting for a response.

She also reminded us that it had been agreed to spend the £1500 grant from DCC (via Paula Black) on a

bench that will be located in the garden until the pool area is ready for it.

7. AOB

Catherine reminded us that there would be a “Big Dig” session in the Kids Corner area of the garden on Sunday 22nd September.

The Kingsbridge Community Garden will be making a visit to the garden - 11am on Wednesday 2nd October is the planned time and date.

Postscript from Ed: the Rotherfold event on 5th October will have a joint stall between the 3 sites, i.e. plus Leechwell and Lamb aimed at recruiting volunteers. We still have not got anyone to man the stand so is anyone willing to take that on? The event is from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Roma for her enthusiasm, dedication and hard work on the garden over the years. She will be missed!

NEXT MEETING: 6pm, Wednesday 18th September 2013, Totnes Fire Station (Pool Project Meeting)
6pm, Wednesday 6th November 2013, Totnes Fire Station (LGA Committee)