

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION MEETING

Held Tuesday 17th January at 5.30pm in Totnes Fire Station

PRESENT: Jim Carfrae, David Mitchell, Janet Mitchell, Robert Vint, Stephanie Parker, Liz Warnes, Ed Vidler, Sue Holmes, Wendy Reid, Keith Rennels, Shirley Prendergast

1. **APOLOGIES:** Jill Tomalin, Lorette Logie, Roma Church, Catherine Munro

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November were adopted

3. MATTERS ARISING

10. Sustainability Grant: Ed will circulate the proposed spending list. **Action EV**

11. AOB: agreed that we should use Rosie's and Jan O'Highway's forthcoming photos for publicity purposes.

4. TASK LIST (Sue Holmes)

Sue circulated a list of LGA tasks that she felt should be 'owned' by one or more committee members in order that they were progressed. The list included:

SHDC tasks (Alex produced a list at a previous meeting)

Infrastructure

Community Spaces

Sustainability Grant

Pool Project

Gardening for Health Programme

Budget

Signs

Timetable

Infrastructure: Keith had already discussed the maintenance schedule with Roma. The boundary trees issue is delayed for the present (though they have to be removed from Alex's garden). Keith agreed to have the apple trees inspected to see if any needed to be felled (following the collapse of one recently) **Action KR.**

Wendy agreed to look after trees (and to liaise with Simon Putt at SHDC who will visit the garden with Keith soon). **Action WR, KR.**

Community Spaces: Keith has a provisional version of the 'official' herb garden plan but the final version will be produced after possible changes to the garden (by Jeannette) in March. A tentative date for the 'Spring Activity' was set for Sunday 22nd April. It was agreed that we should offer the use of the garden to other Totnes groups for Jubilee events (early June).

Pool Project: see 5.a below.

Gardening for Health: the programme needs more space than is available at the Lamb and it was agreed that the garden could be used as well (Roma is in favour because it will enlarge the group of volunteers).

5. REPORTS

a. Pool Group (Shirley Prendergast):

Shirley outlined progress so far. Jill Tomalin had been in touch with John Clipson, who had agreed to inspect the (emptied) pool before he left Totnes on 20th February (and would be paying a preliminary visit to the garden on 18th January). An EH-approved contractor would need to look at it at the same time (Jim said that John would probably know who to contact).

Keith confirmed that although some young newts might be present they would not be a problem and could be moved easily. Shirley said she and Dave would empty the pool using a simple siphon (or a pump if that failed to work). **Action DM, SP.**

It was agreed that Moorashes residents would need to know of the emptying, since it might cause silt and mud to be washed down the stream that runs through their gardens. Keith confirmed that emptying did not need further consents from SHDC.

b. Sculpture planting. Sue had planted a few blue Vinca, but Janet pointed out that Rosie wanted white Vinca Minor. It was agreed that Janet would try to track down a source of white ones (the budget can cover this). **Action JM.**

d. Volunteers: Roma will be emailing volunteers at the beginning of February, letting them know that sessions will start at the end of February (day sessions rather than evening ones due to early sunset)

6. BAT AND BIRD BOXES

Wendy had met an RSPB person who was prepared to help with bird boxes and Roma was meeting her on Wednesday 18th to identify where they might go. Roma and Phil were prepared to install them, but Keith raised Health and Safety concerns (e.g. insurance cover) when using tall ladders and agreed to investigate the issue with SHDC. **Action KR.**

Jim agreed to talk to Shirley (who had left the meeting by then) about where the bat boxes should go so they could be installed at the same time. **Action JC**

7. QUIZ NIGHT

Jim announced that the next Quiz at the Bay Horse in aid of LGA funds would be held on Monday 9th April (Easter Monday) at 8pm.

8. SPRING EVENT

Steph outlined plans for the event – a plant sale (Memory Cross Nursery might help with propagation), drinks and cakes. As well as fundraising the event should help recruit new volunteers. It was suggested that activities (such as making compost bins, some dry stone walling) should be arranged. Activities for children (e.g. an I-Spy leaflet) would be good too. There was a budget (£500 for the year) in the Sustainability Grant for this.

9. MOSAIC

It was agreed to invite the Mosaic group to the next meeting. **Action JC**

10. AOB

Dave reported that a company had sent him an email offering a fee in exchange for the ability to put a small text advert on the LGA website. While most were against the idea, it was agreed that Dave should establish what the fee might be (and what the ad might be too).

Action DM

Jan reported that Rosie's 'steelwork bill' was £106. Ed agreed to pay it. She also mentioned that the garden gates had not been closed until well after dusk for several nights before Christmas. Finally she complained about the poor (and dangerous) state of the 'garden' at Moorashes. Keith agreed to investigate. **Action KR.**

Liz mentioned that there had been a couple of incidents in the garden this month. A group of drinkers had climbed in one evening and didn't leave until 11. A group of teenage skateboards had also caused some trouble. Keith and Ed reminded everyone that all such incidents should be reported to the police as soon as possible (by e.g. phoning 101) and should not be dealt with by residents. Wendy reported that she had bought a tree for the garden. Roma wants to buy compost, shelving for the shed and some other items. She has a list of what needed and asked if she could buy them or give the list to someone? **Action EV?**

11. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be at 5.30 on Tuesday 14th February at Totnes Fire Station.