

## LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION - POOL PROJECT

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at Totnes Fire Station

1. **Present:** Shirley Prendergast; David Mitchell; Liz Warnes; David Martin; Jeannette Willington; Janet Mitchell; Marsha Cummings

**Apologies:** Ed Vidler, Keith Rennells, Jim Carfrae

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** the minutes of the last Pool Group meeting (held on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013) were agreed.

### 3. **Matters Arising:**

Shirley had written to Keith Miller in late July. He was on holiday until the 18<sup>th</sup> August but she still has not heard from him and will contact him again to get clarification of what English Heritage need.

David had offered to research benches which could be bought with the grant money that the Association has.

### 4. **Peter Randall-Page - report back from Janet**

Janet did not have positive news. She had e-mailed Peter to let him know that Keith Miller had said that the spout was not suitable for feeding water into the pool. She had asked if Peter would be interested in making a different freestanding sculpture for the pool area. Peter was not averse but said he was away until September. Janet has not heard further from him and feels that it is difficult when we don't have any positive idea to offer him. We would need to fundraise £5000 - £8000 but there might be a "donation factor".

Dave said we don't need to do anything until Peter gets in touch again.

Shirley thought that we should keep £2000 on hold and revisit the idea of a sculpture later. We can't fundraise for the sculpture independently of the pool. We should go for permission for everything at once. Next time we need to be more explicit about how much we can raise.

It was agreed that we would leave making a visit to Peter's studio until next year until we have a better idea of what's happening about the knotweed.

### 5. **Seat(s) for the Pool Area**

Photographs and information about different types of bench seating were circulated following David's research.

Shirley said there was some urgency to say that we are going ahead so that we can use the grant money. We have about £1500 and could have two of the better seats.

The different types of bench were considered and it was agreed that a metal one would not be chosen. We need a 3-seater (1.8 metre) and a 2-seater (1.5 metre). The bench will have to be fixed in some way either by sinking the lower part of the legs into the ground or bolting a freestanding one to slabs.

Jeannette preferred the "rustic" bench to the traditional ones but Shirley wondered if it might be less comfortable.

Dave said that we need to fence off the contaminated area and put up a notice. We shouldn't spend all the grant money on the benches.

Shirley said that we could spend £1000 and have £500 for other things.

David said that the rustic one could perhaps be varied to suit us as it is custom made.

Liz thought that we might get a better price if we bought two from the same manufacturer.

We need to research whether or not, as a charity, we can get VAT exemption on the benches. Ed might know - someone needs to ask him.

**Action: ?**

After further discussion it was agreed that Liz would find out where Woodmanship are located so that some people can visit and see their benches and will liaise with people to see when they are free to go and visit once we know where Woodmanship are. **Action: Liz**

#### **6. What next for the pool - interim plans until the knotweed is dealt with**

Shirley circulated a paper showing some of the pros and cons of either partial opening of the area or of keeping it closed completely until the knotweed is destroyed.

These alternatives were discussed and it was agreed that it would be preferable to keep the area closed completely as the knotweed and the grass and bindweed would have to be sprayed more than once. We cannot plant new trees until the spraying is over. The apple tree is well away from the knotweed but we need to clear a big area around the tree and compost that area.

Keith will be asked to spray the weeds twice a year and Shirley will ask him if it can be added to the maintenance day.

The benches which were to be put in the pool area will go in the main garden for the time being. A discussion took place about the location of the benches and it was agreed that we need to walk around the garden and consider where the benches might go having regard to the need not to upset the residents of the nearby houses by placing the benches too close to them.

Shirley asked whether, having decided on keeping the pool area closed, we needed to continue to have a Pool Group meetings.

It was agreed that these were no longer necessary but that information about the pool could be given out at the main committee meetings if necessary. The matter of the benches can be discussed at the next main committee meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **7. AOB**

Janet said that the replanting of the areas around the sculptures needed to be considered before the next meeting. We are proposing to buy dog roses to keep people from walking on the area and need to plant some time in November (Lu). A discussion took place about what kind of rose, bare-rooted or pot grown. *(Will Janet and Jeannette decide this between them?)* We need at least 5 for proper ground cover. Special compost is needed (1 bag).

Shirley will send a formal request to Ed asking if we can order them.

It was agreed that the area could be demarcated by small willow hoops which might deter people from treading on the area to be planted. These could be made and installed by volunteers. The Council is pollarding willows soon and Keith could be asked if we could have some of the cuttings. Ed could be asked to store them for us till needed.

**NEXT MEETING: There will be no further Pool Project meetings**

**6pm, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013, Totnes Fire Station (LGA Committee)**