

Minutes of Leechwell Garden Association Committee Meeting Leechwell Cottage, Wednesday 20th October.

Present: Sue, Janet, Dave, Jeannette, Robert, Jill, Wendy, Alan, Jim

1) Apologies

Ed, Anna, Shirley, Alex

2) Minutes of 11th September

Agreed.

3) Matters Arising

The email from Ross about the lifting was discussed, particularly the openings. It was agreed that, following several comments from members of the public, after the switch back to GMT on Sunday 31st October, we would keep the garden open until 4.30pm (rather than 4pm), for a while. It was therefore agreed that the temporary sign would not be replaced with a permanent laminated one until the matter had been discussed with SHDC.

There was concern about how any extra work required by the decision to use the lower entrance as the third opening (such as barriers preventing the public accessing the path along the back of the Heath Way properties) would be paid for. It was presumed that SHDC (and or the residents) would pay.

Robert was pursuing the proposal of a single sign to be sited on the road between the Nursery and Heath's car parks – this would point at the Leechwell Garden, Heath's Garden and the Leechwell.

The issue of donations was discussed again at some length. The consensus was that:

1. Plaques on donated objects would not generally be acceptable
2. Objects in general would be problematic
3. A list of what is needed should be produced and put on the website
4. We should encourage people to donate money to purchase items on the list

It was agreed that Sue would draft a note to this effect to go on the website.

Action: Sue

Alan agreed to discuss the future of the 'heron' with Pruw Boswell.

Action: Alan

4) Review

It was agreed that the launch event had gone wonderfully, with many visitors expressing their delight both then and in later emails and phone calls.

Given the way people gathered at the launch event, and the issue of placement for the winning piece in the public art competition, it was not clear that the best positions of the benches had been identified.

Sue mentioned that Community Spaces had received a letter just three days before the launch claiming that the LGA had not properly consulted the community on how the grant should be spent and making various accusations. The letter asked for the launch to be cancelled, but luckily CS phoned Sue on the Friday and she was able to convince them that the accusations were baseless.

5) Project Manager's Report

Jim explained that John Churchill had worked wonders to get the gates up in time for the launch, but that they would have to go back to him for galvanising in the near future (and be replaced by the temporary wooden gates).

The picnic benches are due for delivery by the end of this week, but the herb garden seating will not be ready until close to Christmas.

The decisions re donations do not apply to the bench donated by the Logies. However, Jim will delay installing the bench until the site of the artwork competition winner has been determined).

The string along the top of the bank will remain there until work on the access to the third entrance is completed.

The safety of the lower water feature (specifically the circular pool at the bottom) was a cause of concern to several members. There were fears that if children played on the wet stone (as happened at the launch) there was a risk of injury if one of them fell. It was agreed to pursue this with Alex. Action: Jim?

There was some discussion about what sort of notice board should be erected and whether it should be combined with the laminated sign. It was finally agreed that it should be separate.

The problem of wheelchair access was raised again. The upper branch of the path leading to the pool is steep and there is insufficient room to turn a wheelchair at the junction without going on to the grass – which could be slippery if wet. It was agreed the matter should be discussed with Alex. Action: Jim?

Sue complimented Jim on the professional nature of his status reports to CS.

Finally it was agreed that the budgeted amount for food and drink should be given to Helen Sands to reimburse her for the extra work she did. Robert should make a claim for his expenditure on juice and napkins to Ed (in effect, this to be deducted from the donations collected on the day). Action: Robert/Ed

6) Report from SHDC

Since neither Alex nor Ross was present, there was none.

7) Advisory Committee

Dave summarised the initial meeting of the AC which was held on 15th October and attended by Dave, Lorette and Derek Williams. He agreed to post details on the website. Action: Dave

8) Teams' Reports

Janet outlined how the Public Art competition was proceeding – more than 20 artists had visited the garden on the 'open day' and so far she had received 4 submissions, with more expected before the end of the week. It was agreed to involve Jim in the short-listing process (with a view to ensuring their practicality).

Jeannette spoke about the herb garden. SHDC had done the first of two agreed treatments to the soil and as a result there would be no planting until the spring. She would like to order plants for the pergola and would send a list to the committee. Jim asked her if the temporary signs on the pergola to be moved to the posts and Jeannette agreed provided the posts could be relocated. SHDC will eventually make permanent signs.

Action: Jim and Jeannette

9) Trees and Planting

Jim was asked to investigate when Mike Jones would be running a Willow Workshop. Action: Jim

Wendy was planning to visit the Mythic Garden to look at Birches and Alder.

Sue had postponed delivery of the 100 trees from the Woodland Trust until the Spring. As well as the Leechwell Garden, some would go in the public space beside Moorashes.

10) Immersion Pool

This will be discussed at the next meeting

12) AOB

It was decided to hold a celebratory party (rather than dinner at a restaurant). Jim kindly offered his house as a venue. It will be held on Friday 12th November.

It was agreed that as far as possible, the CS Sustainability Grant should be used to support **local** businesses.

13) Next LGA meeting

Wednesday 10th November, 2.30pm at Birdwood House.