

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting
held at Birdwood House at 7pm on January 21st 2009

PRESENT

Dave Mitchell	dave@zenoshrdlu.com	(chair for the evening)
Robert Vint	rjvint@globalnet.co.uk	
Ed Vidler	edwardvidler1@btopenworld.com	
Sue Holmes	susieqi@hotmail.com	
Jeannette Willington	jfwillington@btinternet.com	
Shirley Prendergast	s.prendergast@onetel.net	
Janet Mitchell	janet@artifex.freeseerve.co.uk	
Laurel Ellis	elaurel@hotmail.co.uk	
Jim Carfrae	jim@carfrae.com	
Cathy Kiddle	pckiddle@yahoo.co.uk	
Mark Chapman	chapman-hcb@yahoo.co.uk	
Jan O'Highway	jan@janohighway.com	
David Willington	davidwillington1@btinternet.com	

APOLOGIES were received from Wendy Reid, Mike Jones, Serge and Sheila Jouravleff

Dave reminded the meeting of its primary purpose, to establish the association that, with SHDC, would manage the Leechwell Garden. The various agenda items were then considered in turn.

1. Name of the Association

After discussion of various alternatives, it was **unanimously agreed** that since the space is called the Leechwell Garden, the appropriate name for the association was the "Leechwell Garden Association".

2. The Constitution

Dave distributed copies of the draft constitution and the following decisions were taken:

- a. It was **unanimously agreed** that the words "for the benefit of the people of Totnes" be added to paragraph 3.a
- b. It was **unanimously agreed** that an additional Object be added that allowed the Association to carry out other activities, such as manage other open spaces in Totnes. Ed and Robert agreed to provide suitable boilerplate for this.
- c. It was **unanimously agreed** that there should be an annual nominal membership fee (paragraph 5)
- d. It was **unanimously agreed** that, in addition to the three officers, the committee should have a minimum of **two** and a maximum of **seven** additional members (paragraphs 6.a and 7.a)
- e. It was **unanimously agreed** that the committee should meet at least **four** times a year – once each season (paragraphs 7.d and 10.a)
- f. It was **unanimously agreed** that notices may be delivered by email

(paragraph 17)

- g. Dave and Ed explained that Totnes Development Trust was prepared to act as a charitable umbrella for the association (which would make it much easier to obtain funding for expensive garden projects). While it was agreed that this did not preclude the Association having its own bank account (as defined in paragraphs 13 and 14), there were some important issues to be sorted out. It was agreed that Ed would investigate these and report back.

3. Election of the Officers

Dave explained that Ed had earlier in the day agreed to stand for the post of Treasurer. There being no other candidates, it was **unanimously agreed** that Ed should be Treasurer.

Dave explained that none of the DOS committee members present were prepared to stand as Chair and asked for volunteers. Mark bravely accepted and it was **unanimously agreed** that Mark should be the Chair. Dave agreed that he would be prepared to help Mark in any way he could.

Finally, Sue and Shirley agreed that they were happy to share the position of Secretary, though for official purposes, Sue would be Secretary.

4. Election of the Committee

Since Shirley was going to act as co-Secretary, it was necessary for her to be on the committee, leaving up to six places to be filled. Dave explained that Wendy Reid had said that she would like to stand, and most of the remaining places were then filled by Jim Carfrae, Jeannette Willington, Laurel Ellis and Janet Mitchell. Both Dave and Robert agreed to be co-opted. The remaining slot was deliberately left empty – to be filled later.

5. AOB

- a. Jan O'Highway reminded the meeting of the importance of public art to the garden and proposed that the committee should be given a presentation on the matter by the Totnes Public Art Group.
- b. Dave raised the question of a web-site and it was agreed that a suitable domain name should be obtained (LeechwellGarden.org **is** currently available). It was also agreed that mail to leechwellgarden@gmail.com should be forwarded to Shirley and Sue.
- c. Dave proposed that the new committee should arrange to meet with Ross Kennerley and Alex Whish of SHDC, together with the chief garden designer, Charlotte Rathbone.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

The Committee

Mark Chapman	Chair
Sue Holmes	Secretary
Ed Vidler	Treasurer
Other Members:	Jim Carfrae, Laurel Ellis, Janet Mitchell, Shirley Prendergast, Wendy Reid and Jeannette Willington
Co-opted:	David Mitchell and Robert Vint