

**MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 6pm at the REconomy Centre**

**PRESENT:** David Mitchell (Chair), Roma Church, David Martin, Shirley Prendergast, Lu Overy, Frances Gillmore, Jeannette Willington, Sue Holmes

**1. APOLOGIES:** Pete Taylor, Keith Rennells

**2. MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were approved.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:**

Dave noted that we had a party instead of the planned December meeting.

**4. RHS Affiliation**

Dave handed over the latest RHS Garden magazine to Shirley.

**5. Current Finances**

Dave had paid in £225 raised by the Bay Horse Quiz (he thanked those who had donated prizes and wine bottles and attended) and Shirley had paid in £170 from book stall sales. Dave had sent the acknowledge form (for the £1000 grant to Susie's Gate) to DCC. Jeannette had paid Spencer the £286 for repairs to the main gates. Assuming all that the current account stands at £5136.

**6. Repairs**

The repairs to the main gate have made locking and unlocking much easier. The pergola pruning revealed that one of the wooden stringers has broken though this should not be expensive to fix. Dave and David will repair the rickety bench in the herb garden and Roma will investigate obtaining a replacement blackboard.

**Action:** Dave, David and Roma to progress

**7. Herb Garden Plans**

Jeannette is organising a meeting to plan the new planting in the next week.

**8. Sand Pit Cleaning**

Shirley has organised cleaning meetings – to be held on the first Saturday morning of each month starting at 9.30am. Though the January meeting had not been well-attended, Shirley was hopeful that the next would be.

**9. Pool Area**

Sue asked how plans for the pool area were progressing. Shirley explained that while the area around the pool was still infested with active Japanese Knotweed there was little that could be done.

**10. Community Activities**

Roma was anxious to be able to organise or encourage activities in the garden (such as yoga or tai chi classes). Any such activities require approval by SHDC (as the landowner) who also require the organisers to have public liability insurance (£5M). The LGA does not have such insurance at present so Dave agreed to investigate getting it.

**Action:** Dave to investigate

**11. Path Repairs**

Alex Whish had suggested that we should apply for a grant under the (soon to be closed) Pocket Parks scheme. Keith had agreed to draft an application which had to be submitted by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January. All agreed that Keith's draft was excellent – Lu and Shirley agreed to try to get a supporting from Grove School (which they did – attached). The application costs the path repair at £13,370 and since SHDC have agreed to provide £4250 towards the total we are applying for £9480.

**Action:** Keith to submit the application

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13. AOB:

None

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Committee meeting will be on **Monday 18th** February at the REconomy Centre.

**Action:** Dave to book the room (**done**)



Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019

To whom it may concern

I would like to support the Leechwell Garden Association in its application for funds, under the Pocket Parks Plus scheme, to resurface the main path through the Leechwell Garden, Totnes. This will enable access for our pupils to all parts of the garden – especially the wild flower areas at the top and side of the garden- even on wet days when the grass can get muddy and slippery.

Since it opened nine years ago, the garden has been a highly valuable resource for our school, which is on a restricted town centre site, and serves many children living in high density housing with little or no gardens of their own. It provides a beautiful natural area rich in plant and wildlife resources and opportunities for learning and natural play just a few metres from the school.

During an average week we would expect most of our 300 pupils to be using the Leechwell Garden at least once for lessons. Our teachers' Forest Schools training enables children to learn and develop self-esteem, confidence, independence, and creativity in the Garden. The children will also let off steam here, both in and out of school hours (the garden is heavily used by our families and carers). It is an essential part of school and Totnes life.

Yours faithfully

Headteacher