

**MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 6pm at the REconomy Centre**

**PRESENT:** David Mitchell (Chair), Frances Gillmore, Pete Taylor, Keith Rennells, David Martin, Shirley Prendergast, Marisia Willoughby

**1. APOLOGIES:** Marsha Cummings, Lu Overy, Jim Carfrae

**2. MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 were approved.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:**

Shirley had so far failed to make contact with Nick Cheshire about the Little Free Library proposal. David Martin had put up a new blackboard and has started work on the herb garden benches. Dave agreed to check with Jeannette whether SHDC had reimbursed us for the two trees.

**Action:** Dave to contact Jeannette

**4. Pool Area**

The committee discussed what, if anything, should be done about the pool area, which is currently very unsightly. It was agreed that:

1. Given the presence of Japanese Knotweed, the pool area should remain closed
2. Some clearance work should be done to improve its appearance, though it was too soon to do much about hedge laying.
3. Contaminated area not to be touched other than sprayed (ie no grass cutting/weeding etc in knotweed area). The pool will not be fenced off as the pool garden will only be tidied up, not opened up for use.
4. SHDC should be pressed to deal with the knotweed as soon visible shoots appear
5. Repairs should be made to the gate
6. Keith and Shirley will arrange to meet at pool area next week or sometime after Easter

**Action:** Keith to contact SHDC

**5. SUSIE'S GATE**

Since the last meeting Pete had had a meeting with Spencer Field Larcombe, resulting in a design (attached) which would cost £5000 (for construction and installation. Although Pete was very pleased with the design, most of those present felt that the symbolic elements (the angel's wing etc.) were quite dominant but were unlikely to mean much to most visitors to the garden. It was also felt that the design was expensive and that it might be difficult to raise the necessary funds given the personal nature of the design.

All agreed that much of the design – the outer supporting tree-like elements and the flowers in the gate – was really attractive, and that Spencer should be asked to produce a modified, simpler (and hence cheaper) design. Pete suggested that perhaps a small group could meet with Spencer to discuss this. It was agreed that Jeannette and David Martin could meet Spencer with Pete.

**Action:** Pete to arrange a meeting with Spencer

**6. MAY EVENT**

After some discussion, it was felt that we should contact everyone who might be involved and see whether this was viable/we had the capacity to do this.

**7. SHDC TASKS**

Keith reported that Richard Ellingham had not been raking the sandpit so far but had agreed to top up the sandpit as soon as it dies out. Following the submission of details of what is needed to repair the path, Richard has committed to getting the work done (either by the SHDC ops team or an outside contractor). The annual safety inspection by Allianz (the SHDC insurers) revealed no major problems, but they did mention the state of the path as a hazard (which should encourage SHDC to get on with the work).

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**AOB:**

Shirley mentioned that Lu and Jeannette had drawn up detailed plans for work to be done in the garden, some of which (heavy digging etc.) we would need to employ someone to do.

On 12.3.18 Cheryl, one of our garden working party, slipped on the grassy slope beneath the pergola and broke her ankle. She is waiting for an operation to have it pinned. We have sent Cheryl a card and wish her a speedy recovery. Keith will inform SHDC of the accident.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Committee meeting will be on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>** April 2018 at the REconomy Centre, Leechwell Street, starting at 6pm (**NB change of date**).

**Action:** Dave to reserve room (**DONE**)

Spencer Field Larcombe Gate Design

