

**MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 6pm at the REconomy Centre**

**PRESENT:** David Mitchell (Chair), David Martin, Lu Overy, Keith Rennells, Jim Carfrae, Marsha Cummings, Shirley Prendergast

**1. APOLOGIES:** Frances Gilmore, Jeannette Willington,

**2. MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2016 were approved.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:**

Keith reported that the Meadow Rake earlier in the day had been very successful. Although the SHDC operations team had previously put grass cuttings in the garden compost bin, but this was a one-off mistake and in future they will take them to the Depot as normal.

David Martin had filled the 'burrow' near the picnic table with topsoil removed when the foundations for the pumping shed were dug.

**4. NEW PUMPING SYSTEM**

Everyone seemed pleased with the new system and Shirley and Lu agreed to test it at their earliest opportunity. At present the pumping shed is locked using Shirley's padlock, but Keith agreed to contact SHDC to get a padlock that can be opened using the same key as that for the shed and pool area gate.

**Action:** Keith to contact SHDC

**5. REPLACEMENT OF PLAY STRUCTURE**

The 'hornet' problem that led to the Play Structure being taped off turned out to be less serious. There is no nest, merely some hornets feeding on the tree. The tree has been sprayed and the tape removed.

Earthwrights would like to removed the existing structure starting on 31<sup>st</sup> October (rather than the Saturday before. They would like assurances that there are no services (sewers, electricity) running under the area where the new Play Structure will be installed. Though there is believed to be a sewer running under the garden (from the footpath below the Leechwell across to the gardens of Maudlin Road) it is likely to be deep enough to be safe. Keith raised the question of a contract between Earthwrights and the LGA for delivery of the Play Structure. He thought it might be a condition of the SHDC grant and agreed to check.

**Action:** Keith to contact Rob Sekula

Lu noted that she had agreed to provide Earthwrights with a list of preferred shrubs (there's an agreed sum of some £700 in their budget for the work) but has not yet doen so. She agreed to work on it.

**Action:** Lu to create a list

Shirley reported that Helen Raphael Sands could not really do any work for an opening ceremony. It was agreed that Shirley should talk to the Head of the Grove School to arrange an small-scale 'ceremony' involving the school some time in the first week of December. She also agreed to contact the Mayor to make sure she could do attend to perform the actual opening.

**Action:** Shirley to contact the Grove and Mayor

**6. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID – ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

It was agreed that it was not worth the effort of getting the garden listed as an "Asset of Community Value", but it should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan as a 'local green space'. Shirley agreed to work on the necessary documentation (that will be handed over to Tony Whitty in due course). She will need a boundary plan – David Martin agreed to see if the Heath Way Management has a suitable one.

**Action:** David Martin to investigate

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**AOB:**

Keith reported that following the strimming of the pool area, there was no visible sign of Japanese Knotweed. As a result, it might be a good idea to proceed with 'laying' the hedge around the area. Jim agreed to contact Alice Wood, a local hedge-laying expert, to ask her advice. It would make a good community project.

**Action:** Jim to contact Alice.

There was also talk of a winter Bat Evening. Shirley agreed to contact Sylvia Bevis (who's previous Bat Evening had to be cancelled due to bad weather).

**Action:** Shirley to contact the Sylvia

Shirley and Dave were re-imbursed for the payments they made for the Pumping System (shed, pump, construction work) from the LGA bank account.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Committee will be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm at the ReEconomy building in Leechwell Street.

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