

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 21st October 2015 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair); Louise Overy; Jeannette Craig Willington; Marsha Cummings, Shirley Prendergast, David Martin, Jim Carfrae

1. APOLOGIES: Keith Rennels, Susie Boyd, Ed Vidler

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 23rd September 2015 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

The gate to the garden was mentioned but it is thought that there is not a problem with the locking mechanism. Lu Overy will speak to Liz Warnes, who originally raised the issue, to see if she is still having difficulty.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Dave circulated a statement from Ed (attached to these minutes), which showed we currently had a balance of £4836 at the end of September 2015. According to Ed, at the end of the year the funds held by TDT (to become TT) will be handed over to the LGA which will then be financially independent. We may need an accountable body (a charitable trust) if we apply for a grant in the future.

5. REPLACEMENT OF PLAY STRUCTURE

Dave circulated some e-mails between himself, Keith Rennels and Alex (attached to these minutes).

It was thought that there was not much chance with the Tesco scheme because Totnes has no Tesco and members of the public voting for the winners of the scheme would do so via the stores in Kingsbridge, Newton Abbott and Torquay so it was unlikely that we would obtain votes.

A discussion took place about how to move forward with the replacement structure and it was decided that we to arrange a meeting with Keith to discuss the way forward and costs arising from his involvement.

Action: Dave to contact Keith.

6. WATERING THE GARDEN

Jim and Dave had conducted an experiment in the garden to see how the RainPerfect system performed. Jim circulated a report that showed that the system can suck and pump water through a 50m hose, so the pump, control box and water butt can each be positioned wherever is suitable. A discussion took place about the need for a shed to house the water butt and the hoses and it was thought that this would, with the necessary plinth for the butt, cost in the region of maybe £600. It was decided to leave further consideration until the New Year – the item will be on the agenda for the January committee meeting.

7. GARDEN NEWS

Dave had attended a meeting at the Guildhall chaired by the mayor, Jacqui Hodgson. They are planning to commemorate the First World War by planting 100 trees in and around Totnes and are looking for possible locations. A discussion took place about whether we could accommodate trees in the garden. It was decided that there was room in the herb garden for two trees, 6 to 8 feet tall which could be fruit or nut trees. Some research needs to be done as to the type. Lu said that there might be room for another tree at the top left of the garden behind the Guardians. It was agreed that the LGA might contribute towards the cost of the trees and was prepared to take over their maintenance.

Action: Dave to contact Jacqui

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It was mentioned at the same meeting at the Guildhall that March 22nd 2016 was International Water Day and there are plans to celebrate it in Totnes at the Leechwell.

Jeanette said that Douglas came twice recently to do bulb planting and 500 bulbs have now been planted at a cost of £80 for labour. Douglas has sorted out the bramble on the herb garden wall but more wires are needed for the top of the wall.

The volunteers have cleared around the small trees and it was noted that there had been some damage from strimming.

Thanks to Shirley we have a new umbrella which is now secured in place.

Dave Martin mentioned that the willows in the garden may need pollarding and we will need to remind SHDC about this. It could be done when the play structure is cut up.

The rose on the pergola also needs expert pruning as does the olive tree but these need to be pruned during the dormant season.

AOB:

There was none.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Association will be on Wednesday 18th November 2015 at the ReEconomy building.

Action: Dave to reserve the room

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

TOTNES DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Registered Charity Number 1081005

Income & Expenditure Account as at 30 September, 2015

LEECHWELL GARDEN FUND

Income

Donations	20
Pub Quiz	223
Annual Event	710
Plant stall	1,072
Book stall	259
Gift Aid	1,060
Total Income ytd	3,344

Expenditure

Imprest Account	750
Audit fee	-
PL Insurance	-
Assets Insurance	-
Tools insurance	-
Total Expenditure ytd	750-
Total Surplus ytd	2,594
Brought fwd from 2014	2,242
Balance 30 September, 2015	4,836

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SHDC and the Play Structure – Recent Emails

From Me to Alex and Keith (after last meeting):

at last night's LG meeting we discussed the future of the play structure. Back at the end of July we had a meeting in the Leechwell Garden (minutes attached) at which it was agreed that you would contact Mike Jones of Earthwright's about possible new designs and also give us the names of a couple of other firms we could contact (since any grant from the "New Homes Bonus" would probably require 3 tenders). Has any progress been made on this issue? We are a bit concerned since the New Homes Bonus has been mentioned in the local press (with mention of several organisations looking for grants, but no mention of the LGA).

Dave

Reply from Alex:

Good morning Dave

Apologies for the silence but best intentions have unfortunately slipped here! I had hoped to do a briefing note for the meeting and formally offer apologies. Clearly the changes here will impact on our engagement with you, a definite change from my earlier years with Leechwell Garden and when Keith was here! Sorry about that. In terms of action and previous offers, I will make contact with Earth Wright's in the first instance to understand their thoughts on making changes to the structures in anticipation of the tree trunk removal. I will also check the position on New Homes bonus, my current understanding is this hasn't been progressed here yet and that Grants could be sought later this year so no decisions. You may wish to engage with Keith once this has been clarified to help in making the application etc. and supporting the delivery. I will be in contact in due course. Kind regards Alex

From me to Alex (copying Keith) this week:

Hi Alex

we have an LGA Committee meeting this Wednesday and the play structure replacement is on the agenda. Have you any news about EarthWrights?

Sue Holmes sent out an email about a [Groundwork/Tesco](#) scheme for grants which looks very interesting but is only open for one month (starting today!) so I think we need to get a move on.

By copy Keith - we would very much like to involve you in any bid for a grant, either the New Homes Bonus scheme or this new Groundwork/Tesco one.

Dave

Reply from Alex:

Dear Dave

Thanks for the email. I'm currently trying to liaise with Earthwrights (voicemail ping pong) and will arrange a meeting for early November – my next available time after half term. I'll emphasis the need to feedback quickly. In terms of the Groundwork/Tesco grant – what is required in terms of their input.

I'll also now email them to see if they can get on in the shorter term.

Apologies for the delay.

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Kind regards

Alex

From me to Alex:

Having looked at the Groundwork/Tesco grant page, although we would be eligible, the grants are actually awarded on the basis of votes cast at Tesco stores. There isn't one in Totnes and I'm not sure we'd get many votes from the stores in Newton Abbott, Paignton, Kingsbridge, Brigham and Torquay. There's some detail about how it works here:

www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/Pages/large-grants-tes

Dave

From Keith Rennells:

Hi chaps,

Thanks for copying me in....

Dave - apologies that I cannot make it along to the meeting tomorrow, I have a clash of dates and need to be in Plymouth, sorry.

All - However, I am eager and ready to help when SHDC and LGA are ready for me to do so, particularly on the fundraising and project coordination for the play sculpture overhaul!

Alex, I am happy to do the running around on play companies, the grant requires three quotes so we will need to run it past others, not just Earthwrights...

If it helps I can try and put together an estimate of my time and thus associated costs, but at this stage am not clear as to where funding for my time would come from? Is this a joint SHDC LGA venture?

As I cannot make the LGA meet I would suggest a quick heads together when we can to get things moving....

Cheers for now,

Keith