

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 22nd February 2017 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair); Louise Overy; Jeannette Craig Willington; Marsha Cummings; David Martin; Keith Rennels

1. APOLOGIES: Jim Carfrae; Shirley Prendergast

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 25th January 2017 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Apart from the request to Shirley to draft a notice about the sandpit, all actions from the last meeting had been completed.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Jeannette paid Dave the £24.96 he had paid for renewing the website. It was agreed that Shirley should prepare the Play Structure Account summary for the AGM and Jeannette would prepare the Main Account summary.

Action: Shirley and Jeannette.

5. PLAY STRUCTURE RE-OPENING

Following some discussion, the following actions were agreed:

- a. the opening should be on a date and time that was acceptable to the Grove School – probably a school day either at lunchtime or in the afternoon.
- b. the last week in March was probably the best time
- c. as well as the Grove School, we should invite the mayor of Totnes, TTC and SHDC councillors, EarthWrights, Alex Whish and Rob Sekula, Santander Bank, Di Reeves, TotSoc and Sarah Wollaston
- d. we should draft a press release (to be vetted by SHDC) for the Totnes Times

Action: Shirley to contact the Grove.

As soon as we have fixed a date with the Grove School, we should issue invitations. The Press Release (with the date left blank) should be prepared as soon as possible and forward it to SHDC for approval.

Action: ??? to draft the release.

6. PLAY STRUCTURE INSPECTION AND INSURANCE

Keith had received a copy of the safety inspection report produced by the Play Inspection Company and forwarded it to members of the Committee. All of the six issues were low-risk ones and EarthWrights had already fixed four of them – the other two they decided were acceptable anyway (see below for details)

SHDC use ALLIANZ to insure all their parks and open spaces, and will also carry out an inspection but Keith does not expect that will cause problems. However it is important that insurance is in place before we open the play facility – Keith is confident that that can be done before the planned re-opening in late March.

Action: Keith to liaise with SHDC.

7. SOLAR POWERED PUMPING SYSTEM

Following a question at the last meeting, Dave had tested the pumping system. While the pump that supplies the butt was working properly, the battery for the other pump, which powers the hose, was flat. Dave had contacted Guy Metcalfe (who installed the system) and together they checked out the system. The solar panels appeared to be working well and they were unable to find a fault. Guy swapped over the two batteries and would be checking the system again this week. If problems persist, it should be possible to install a more powerful battery (and perhaps larger solar panels).

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 22nd February 2017 6pm at the REconomy Centre

8. LGA AGM DATE

It was agreed that the AGM should be held soon after the opening of the new Play Structure. We should use the opening to publicise the AGM and as an opportunity to try to recruit new committee members. Given the relatively small numbers expected, the REconomy Centre should be an acceptable venue. Dave would book the room as soon as a date was fixed.

Action: Dave to book

AOB:

As agreed at a recent meeting in the garden, SHDC (Alex Whish) has been asked to provide two trees (a Willow and a Birch) to shield the play structure from the houses at the bottom of Heath Way which Keith and the LGA will then plant (before the opening of the new Play Structure). The Mountain Ash that the LGA will purchase will be planted at the same time.

Action: Keith to progress with SHDC

It was agreed that SHDC should be asked to resurface the paths with proper fine gravel.

Action: Keith to progress with SHDC

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Association will be on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at the REconomy building.

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

Notes about the Safety Inspection carried out by the Play Inspection Company.

All findings either low, or very low risk, and most now addressed by Earth Wrights as follows:

- * **Fixing pins in grass mat impact area** - these have been removed and replaced with cable ties.
- * **Projecting willow branches on tunnel/tyre seat** - this is a maintenance issue
- * **potential crush point under wobbly bridge fixings** - refer to manufacturer - Earth Wrights satisfied with installation as a very low risk
- * **potential head entrapment on overhead rings** - refer to manufacturer - Earth Wrights report that they observed testing probe had to be hammered in to place, and given that they are located several feet above ground level, are satisfied that very low risk
- * **slide run outs set too high** - the height of the mats has been raised to comply with BS
- * **finger entrapment in barrier adjacent overhead rings** - the gap has been widened out to comply with BS

Keith Rennells