

# MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

June 22nd 2010 3.30pm, Leechwell Cottage.

**PRESENT:** Sue Holmes (Chair) Ed Vidler (Treasurer), Jeannette Willington (Mem Sec), David Mitchell, Janet Mitchell, Robert Vint, Jim Carfrae, Wendy Reid, Alan Gorman; Alex Whish, Jill Tomalin, Shirley Prendergast (Sec). Thanks to Dave and Janet for venue and hospitality. Sue welcomed two newly co-opted members, Alan Gorman from Totnes Town Council and Jill Tomalin who will be chairing the Pool Working Group.

Before moving on to the agenda Sue reported that an email about the LGA grant application has been sent to Community Spaces (Big Lottery Fund) by one (possibly more) Heathway resident. Sue will contact Heath Way residents to discuss further. Ross Kennerley (SHDC) will contact Community Spaces with supporting evidence about the decision by SHDC and MIDAS solicitors in April 2010 before the grant submission was made.

**1. APOLOGIES:** Anna Lunk

**2. MINUTES LGA COMMITTEE MEETING** June 4th 2010: agreed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING.**

Alex thought that water could be taken from the stream to water trees without affecting the flow of the Moorashes stream. (But see 8 below)

Shirley has lodged copies of CS Grant Application and 2010 Consultation with Totnes library.

**4. AGM**

Detailed arrangements for the conduct of the AGM (membership, election etc) (EV, JW)

Constitutional changes will be outlined at meeting (Ed)

Charlotte will be briefed (Sue)

Current LGA Committee officers and members are standing again, except for Mark Chapman who has resigned.

Current Committee members will wear badges to make themselves known at the meeting. (JM)

Others putting themselves forward for the committee will have 30 seconds to say who they are and why they should be elected.

No small copies of garden plans will be given out, but 5 big plans will be available around the hall (JC, DM)

A list to be made of who is doing what in the garden after the AGM (SP, JC)

The small library display of plans will be put up (WR, SP)

Jeannette and Dave will organise membership tables/cards (DM, JW)

Badges for the LGA Committee and donation boxes (Janet)

Notice needed by the pool to indicate to visitors that work continues on this area. (SP, JC)

**5. TASKS AND TEAMS**

Jim Carfrae will be Project Manager for the completion of Project 1 and overseeing Project 2.

Terms and conditions to be discussed with TDT (EV, JC)

Co-opted members will be taking on community building and liaison roles:

Anna Lunk- environmental issues

Robert Vint- schools liaison

Alan Gorman- vulnerable groups

**6. KEVICC**

Sue, supported by Robert, had a successful meeting at KEVICC- report circulated to members last week.

## **7. MEETING WITH HEATH WAY RESIDENTS JUNE 12**

Sue and Ed had a productive meeting with several residents, report circulated last week.  
Mark Chapman formally resigned from the Committee

## **8. PROJECT 1**

Alex reported back on Project 1, the basic infrastructure of the garden. The Practical Completion Certificate has now been signed and the contractors paid. There is now a 12 month maintenance agreement in place covering the seeded grass, tree planting, weeding and lawn cutting (until April 2011) Although there had been an overspend of 16K which included contract delay penalties, additional French drains, car park works and other unexpected costs, some of this will be clawed back from other services, leaving a final cost of about 152K- just within the original budget. This sum *includes* the cost of raising the height of the boundary fence bordering the garden of Leechwell Cottage and temporary fencing around the immersion pool. Budgeted items *which cannot be funded at the moment* include re-connecting the lower bark path, additional trees on the Heath Way boundary, the promised 5K towards restoring the immersion pool and the costs involved in progressing SMC for the pool.

SHDC do not generally connect water and electricity services to public open spaces, but will consider supplying their own water bowsers for use in the garden.

Jim and Alex will meet to check that all Project 1 tasks are fully completed. (AW, JC)

On behalf of the Committee, Sue thanked Alex and Ross for their incredible achievement in bringing the garden in on budget

## **9. POOL PROJECT**

Shirley and Jill (who will be working together on the pool area of the garden) have already met. Several issues need to be addressed. The pool should not remain empty during the dry weather. Once the rest of the garden is open to the public the pool will be more susceptible to vandalism so secure fencing is crucial. An information board will be needed, letting the public know that plans to restore this area of the garden are underway. Now that SHDC funds have dried up, a key issue is how we can continue the progress towards getting Scheduled Monument Consent that has already been made this year. We are waiting for the next two stages (WSI and archaeological investigation) to be done. Once these have been completed things should move on much more quickly.

With Alex's agreement and in consultation with him and Richard Gage, Jill and Shirley propose to draw up a draft project management plan for taking the pool forward, including a realistic estimate of the cost of getting SMC. (JT, SP)

Alex agreed that the pool area would be fully maintained (brambles and grass cut) and would be securely fenced off from the public until restoration work can be undertaken. It would be refilled as close to its previous water level as soon as possible. (SP,AW,JC)

## **10. DPD**

Jill, who is co-ordinating responses to the Totnes DPD asked if the LGA (Alex and Robert abstained) wished to comment on any aspect of the plans. Dave outlined the response made by DOS regarding plans for the Southern Area and it was agreed that Dave would draft a similar response on behalf of the LGA. (DM)

## **11. AOB**

New plans for Heath's Garden will be circulated for comments. The possibility of a joint maintenance agreement with the Leechwell Garden will be discussed later.

## **12. NEXT MEETING**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2010, 10.30-11.30am to discuss the AGM. Dave and Janet's house.**

