

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 23rd March at 6pm at Leechwell Cottage

PRESENT: Marsha Cummings, Sue Holmes, David Martin, Dave Mitchell, Shirley Prendergast, Keith Rennells, Jeannette Willington

1. APOLOGIES: Susie Boyd, Jim Carfrae, Lu Overy,

2. MINUTES: the minutes from the meeting on 3rd February 2016 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING: None

4. NEW PLAY STRUCTURE:

a. Funding

SHDC had confirmed in writing the award of a grant of up to £30,000 or 87.3% of the project cost – whichever is the lesser - together with the conditions attached to it. We will need to raise £7,162 ourselves to get the full amount from SHDC.

So far there is the possibility of contributions as follows:

£1,500 from local Councillors

£500 from Paige Adams Trust (applied for)

£1,000 from LGA funds

£4,335 from Santander (applied for via TotSoc)

Keith said there is also the possibility of £3,000 from Cllr Vint's locality fund, originally allocated to a skateboard park but so far unspent. There might also be Section 106 funds from a development in Collins Road.

Keith thought payment of the SHDC grant could be arranged in instalments based on completion of agreed stages of the work. This would require a written specification of the work involved against which payments could be made.

Jeanette suggested that a separate bank account should be opened for the play structure project, preferably with Santander Bank which provides itemised bank statements. She would follow this up.

Action: Jeanette

b. Choice of scheme

Shirley had already circulated a very helpful summary of the results of the consultations held in Leechwell Garden and at Totnes Library. This suggested a clear preference among adults for the scheme by Earthwrights which was also popular with children, some of whom also showed some preference for the Wicksteed scheme or particular aspects of it. Dave said that in view of the results we would have to have a good reason not to go with Earthwrights

It was agreed that Keith would contact Earthwrights as preferred contractor and to arrange a meeting including a site visit in the week starting 4 April. He would also contact Wicksteed and Sutcliffe to let them know that their schemes had not been selected.

Action: Keith

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At the meeting with Earthwrights, we would need to discuss any changes that we may want them to make to their scheme (for example, the question of how to incorporate a sandpit or 'beach'; and how far to take account of many comments and suggestions made at the consultations).

Shirley suggested that she and David should sift through the comments from the questionnaire sheets to provide the basis for a discussion before we meet Earthwrights.

Action: Shirley/David

5. AOB

Jeanette asked what progress had been made on the watering system for the garden. She said that nothing more could be planted until a water supply is available.

Dave said that he already had some of the equipment needed and he would speak to Jim about the installation.

Action: Dave

Shirley asked about a proposed date for a May Event in the garden. Dave said we should wait until we have talked to Earthwrights - this year's event could be linked to completion of the new play structure.

No date for a next meeting was fixed (but could be at the meeting with Earthwrights).