

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
24th June at 6pm in the Leechwell Garden

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Sue Holmes, Shirley Prendergast, Lu Overy, Jeannette Willington, David Martin, Philip Strange Keith Rennells

1. APOLOGIES:

2. MINUTES: the minutes of the meeting of the 11th March were not reviewed

3. MATTERS ARISING

Since this was the first meeting in 3 months (due to lockdown) we preceded in a somewhat different manner – a tour of the garden discussing matters at hand.

4. THE POOL AREA

All agreed that the two new benches looked good, were comfortable and will provide good views of the main garden when the gaps in the hedging were constructed. Keith said that the benches were made of reconstituted plastic salvaged from South Devon beaches. He agreed to provide Dave with the necessary information to update the “Who Made What” notice by the main garden gate.

The wild flower planting had been successful though somehow the magnolia had been felled.

It was agreed that Keith should get a notice made to be placed on the fenced-off area gate explain that access to the pool was not permitted (and warning of the deep water in the pool?) **and not to walk on the “meadow” while it was establishing itself**. Once this had been done it was agreed that the gate into the seating area could be left open.

Action: Keith to provide notice and info

5. THE SANDPIT

The popularity of the sandpit has led to its sad degradation. It was agreed that:

Sleepers should be placed along two of the edges of the cover to act as seating and prevent sand being kicked into the grass.

A new post should be placed in the middle of the grassless ‘beach area’ to make it possible to secure the cover better.

Action: Keith to do the work

A large amount of sand had been washed down into the rill between the two Heathway terraces. It was agreed that its removals was work that SHDC should do (having done it in the past).

As a result a lot of new sand is required and Keith felt that we should not rely on SHDC to provide sand of the right quality. Given the good state of our finances (see section 7) it was agreed that we should obtain it.

6. MAINTENANCE

There was some discussion of grass-cutting. Keith noted that there was an interactive map that showed SHDC’ ground maintenance schedules (see attached image I captured this morning from <http://gis.swdevon.gov.uk/CNET4914LIVE/CMFindIt/>). It was felt that the lawn and some pathways should be cut as now but that other areas could be cut much more infrequently. Philip noted that the slope from the pergola to the main lawn **needed to be moved (not trimmed)** to protect the mining bees habitat. Keith agreed to discuss the whole schedule with the SHDC ops team.

Action: Keith to discuss with SHDC

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There was a need for a replacement notice to describe the layout of the herb garden. Roma and Lu were working on it.

7. FINANCES

Jeannette reported that there is currently some £4800 in the two LGA bank accounts.

10. AOB

There was some discussion of the email from Tallula Bently about a planned series of arts event in Totnes in mid August. The organisers would like to hold one in the garden. It was noted that this would certainly need permission from SHDC and the usual rules (no charges, no amplified music, etc) would apply. Lu and Sue agreed to attend the organiser's zoom meeting and the meeting in the churchyard.

NEXT MEETING: No date was agreed at the meeting but it was agreed we should hold the next meeting in the garden sometime in late July.

Action: Dave to circulate dates

SHDC Ground Maintenance Map

