

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 27th May 2015 6pm at the REconomy Centre

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

1. APOLOGIES: Keith Rennels, Susie Boyd

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 29th April 2015 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Dave noted that Liz Warnes had resigned from the committee, though she will continue to help in the garden. It was agreed that Dave should thank Liz for her contributions to the LGA. **Action:** Dave

Dave Mitchell had not heard from Keith Rennels regarding SHDC updates. We do not yet know what is going to happen when Keith leaves but this will not be for a month or two? yet. Lu will email Keith to ask him who will report regularly from SHDC once he has left. **Action:** Lu

With regard to the staining of the shed, this is in progress and nearly finished but it may need another coat. Dave Martin will submit an invoice to Jeanette when the work is finished.

It is not known what further progress (if any) has been made regarding ensuring the opening and closing of the gates to the garden. It is in the interests of LGA to ensure that the gates are locked at night but it was felt that LGA should not have to contribute to paying for someone to do this. If the gates become more of a problem we will need to raise the issue again. Shirley said that it is part of the landowners' contract with the Council to take part in the process of securing the garden. If the residents default, SHDC may simply decide to leave the garden open at night.

4. WATERING THE GARDEN:

Jim Carfrae has received an email from Dan Bailey at Beko giving a link to a manufacturer of a suitable pump but has said he will source one if we give him the specification. Jim described the pump which can manage 100 gallons and needs 8 hours of sunlight to recharge.

Shirley mentioned that Liz and Phil Warnes had contacted a plumber who has an idea for "passive supply". He said that we should not take water from the pool but from a pipe. If water is taken from the pool, it may dry up.

We should pursue the idea of a solar pump to pump the water three to four feet to supply the hose to the herb garden. Dave Mitchell will have a look at Dan Bailey's email and respond. **Action:** Dave

He said the reason the hose to the herb garden did not work at the recent watering was because there was a problem with one of the joints in the hose. This has now been fixed. We need to connect an extension hose to the existing one so that it reaches the bottom of the herb garden. Dave Mitchell may have a connector and will check. He said that there was a further length of hose unused at the moment by the wall in the herb garden. We can

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continue to use the hose and water supply from Dave Mitchell's house until a suitable pump is installed.

Ed Vidler queried the cost of the pump. Jim thought it would be around £100 but no price was given in the email from Dan Bailey.

Ed said that once a year he receives a donation of £300 - £400 for the Trust and will ask for that amount again when he writes to them.

There is a barrel in the pool area which is large enough to hold enough water for a week's supply but it will need a platform built for it for use with the pump. It would be better to take the water from above rather than below the pool but this may prove difficult.

5. GARDEN NEWS

Jeanette said that there are signs that someone has jumped over the wall into the herb garden and trampled a large plant. This access continues to be a problem. We could hoist the rose up to the top of the wall to try to prevent further access.

Part of the wall on the lane side is getting dangerous and the top part could fall. Lu will report this to SHDC.

Action: Lu

Jeanette asked whether it would be a good idea to cut down the weeding by putting bark around the plants in the herb garden. We could get Douglas to do that as there are not enough volunteers to do all the necessary work at the next work meeting in the garden.

For the time being we can leave the rose on the pergola but it will need to be cut back in the autumn by someone experienced.

The area near the Guardians has been strimmed not sprayed and Lu will mention this in her email to Keith and will thank him for arranging this and for the placing of bark in the area around the pool.

6. GARDENING FOR HEALTH

Catherine has contributed three new forks to the collection of tools in the shed.

7. SHDC NEWS

See Matters Arising

8. SPRING EVENT FOLLOW-UP

Dave Mitchell thanked everyone for their efforts. We raised about £700 and there is another £100 and more still coming in from plant sales.

Shirley said that the young woman who did the facepainting, Cara Skinner, said that people had expressed a wish that there were more things to do for little children. If she has notice next time she could arrange storytelling with interested parents.

Shirley said that the Rotherfold Drama Group could maybe do a play next time for the cost of around £300 and there is the possibility of Punch and Judy if we book early enough.

Sue Holmes queried publicity and Lu said that it had been possible to publicise the event in the Totnes News but not in the Totnes Times.

A discussion was had about how to get better publicity and possibly have a banner made for next year. Ed suggested that we put the Event on the agenda at Christmas this year to ensure that we have enough time for organising things that need to be booked ahead.

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Wednesday 27th May 2015 6pm at the REconomy Centre

9. RHS PENNANT AWARD - JULY 8th

Last year the garden won a silver cup award and the judging panel was impressed. Judging this year is on the 8th July and someone will need to be there to talk to the judges and to put together a page of information for them. Dave Mitchell will write to Diane Cusack about this. **Action:** Dave

10. LEECHWELL REPAIR FOLLOW-UP

The repair of the well is finished and the new sign is up. A discussion took place about the signage and publicity for the well which is not shown on the Town map though there is a sign in the garden pointing to the well. The town map is SHDC's responsibility and the existing map was done before the garden was created. Sue Holmes said it would be possible to use the new information board in Heath's Garden.

11. AOB

Ed raised the issue of the replacement play structure and how long the existing one might last. Dave Mitchell thought it has a two or three year life expectancy. It looks worse and is less useable in winter. The uprights are in decent condition as is the netting. The useable part of the existing structure could be incorporated into a new one.

It was thought that this was not a pressing matter at the moment. A new structure could take some time to be designed and finished and SHDC may help with this and possibly other groups interested in play areas. This is something that could be discussed further with Keith Rennels.

Ed also raised the question of the draft licence which has not been completed yet. Dave Martin said that there had been last-minute glitches about the document. It was decided to take no action regarding this for the time being.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Association is on Wednesday 24th June 2015 at the REconomy building.