

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 29th April 2015 6pm at Totnes Firestation

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair); Louise Overy; Jeannette Craig Willington; Marsha Cummings, Shirley Prendergast, Susie Boyd, David Martin, Ed Vidler, Elizabeth Warnes

1. APOLOGIES: Keith Rennels

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 4th March 2015 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

The only matter arising was that we are still waiting to hear from Keith Rennels regarding fundraising but he has not been in contact with Dave Mitchell as yet about this.

4. SHDC UPDATE

Dave Martin said that Keith Rennels is leaving SHDC and will be working privately. We do not know yet who will take over responsibility for liaising with LGA in future. Shirley suggested that the LGA should formally write to Keith to thank him for his support throughout his employment.

5. WATERING THE GARDEN:

Dave said he did not understand why the hose from his garden had not worked last time the volunteers tried to use it. We need a hose spray and an extension for the existing hose as a short-term solution to the watering problem. Jeanette will go to Fermoys to buy these.

Liz has spoken to a plumber who advised that it would cost approximately £200 to instal a pipe from the top pool and the pipe could be clipped to the wall in the herb garden. It needs a quick release pump and a full bore lever valve rather than a tap. A hand pump would cost about £30.

Dave Mitchell wondered whether the pressure for the pump would be high enough.

We need to ask advice from James Bellchamber who rigged up a system that worked previously.

Shirley will ask James for advice. We could also ask Beko for an estimate.

6. SPRING EVENT ON THE 17TH MAY 2015

Lu circulated a list of what is necessary for the Event and various people volunteered to bring equipment and supplies. There will be a meeting to discuss the Event again on Wednesday 13th May at the ReEconomy building at 6pm. Lu will ask Catherine Munroe to book the room for the purpose of the meeting.

A request was made to the Committee for prizes for the tombola, books for Shirley to sell at the book stall. Catherine will be asked to invite the harpist and Shirley will invite the lady who did the facepainting last year. Dave Mitchell will do a poster and Lu will do the Facebook page about the Event. All were asked to bring supplies of cake for the food table and Liz said that Phil Warnes would be willing to make flapjacks again this year and Liz would provide a tea urn. Susie will provide some cold drinks.

The Event will run from 11am to 3pm approximately. Ed will contact the Council to see if we can borrow tables and chairs for the Event as we did last year. We need cafetieres. Some decorations are in the shed and can be reused. Shirley will bring plants down to the garden the night before the Event. Further discussions can be had at the meeting on the 13th May.

7. THE REPAIR OF THE LEECHWELL

The repair is scheduled to start on Monday the 4th May and should take about seven working days. The works might temporarily affect the water supply to the garden. Shirley will leaflet the people in Moorashes to let them know what is happening.

Dave Mitchell reported that there are to be two forthcoming events :-

- 1 Totnes Event Collective are celebrating MayDay at the Well. They plan to meet in the Garden and may want to celebrate in there but as long as what they do is low-key and uncomplicated they should not need to get formal permission from the Council.

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- 2 Dave has received an e-mail via Keith from Mrs. Rosetta Marino who wants to have her child's birthday party in the Garden on the 26th June and to have a Punch and Judy show and other children to the party after school on that day. Again, as long as there is no music and it is a private party and low-key, she should not need to get formal permission. We might ask for a donation but could certainly ask about the Punch and Judy show which may be good to have at the Event on the 17th May.

8. STAINING THE SHED

David Martin said that the shed was looking shabby and needs a coat of green woodstain. He volunteered to buy the stain and to submit the invoice for payment from Garden funds. He will also do the painting.

9. FINANCES

Shirley has sent round the end of March accounts. In the year to date we have earned £725 from the quiz, plants and donations and this is before the May Event and book sales.

Jeanette said we have spent £75 on compost, £32 on labour and £204 on plants. There is a credit balance of £37 and Jeanette needs to get £250 transferred.

Shirley thought we needed to be able to pay for labour to augment what the volunteers do and to help with heavy work. She said we have brought forward from last year £2,242.

There may be a possibility of a grant or lottery money for the new tree structure for the play area.

10. GARDEN REPORT

This should be added to the agenda in future. Recently the volunteers have replanted Kids' Corner and it now looks good and has a variety of colour and drought resistant plants.

Work on the replanting round the Guardians has paid off.

The growth on the pergola needs attention and needs someone with a ladder to interweave the new growth. We could pay someone to do that but need to check our insurance. Ed will check with Geoff about this but someone employed to do the work would need to have their own insurance against accidents etc.

Jeanette said it was always the same few volunteers who do the work and we need to get more people to help. We will ask again in the Friends' Newsletter and put something on the garden notice board.

Shirley said that the herb garden is looking beautiful and special thanks should go to Jeanette for her involvement with this.

AOB

Jeanette felt that the bottom entrance to the garden should be opened with the main gate and the notice on the bottom gate removed. David Martin said that the transfer relating to the entranceway has not yet been formally completed.

Liz said there was still a problem about locking and unlocking the gates. Five of the householders who back onto the garden are not willing to take a turn at locking and unlocking. The Heathway residents have employed the "Lollipop man" from the local school to do this sometimes but he hasn't been completely reliable. A discussion took place about alternatives which might mean leaving the garden unlocked on the nights when people on the rota for locking and unlocking don't want to do it. Leaving the garden open overnight is not a good prospect and should be a last resort.

Ed said he was uncomfortable that we were paying someone to do what is SHDC's responsibility. He will mention this to Keith and it may be that SHDC could donate to cover the costs.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be at the Fire Station on the 27th May. Ed Vidler cannot attend the meeting and asks to note his apology.