

**MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 6pm at the REconomy Centre**

**PRESENT:** David Mitchell (Chair), Roma Church, David Martin, Lu Overy, Jeannette Willington, Sue Holmes, Keith Rennells, Shirley Prendergast

**1. APOLOGIES:** Frances Gilmore, Pete Taylor

**2. MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:**

None not covered below.

**4. PATH REPAIRS**

SHDC have the full amount in hand (less the £2000 transferred to the LGA account.) Keith thinks we should wait until September to do the work to minimise problems over access by the public. We will need to get three quotes (one from SHDC). Keith will ask Devon CC for a list of approved local contractors. It was agreed that the path in the pool area should be included in the work.

**Action:** Keith to keep us informed.

**5. NOTICES FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> GATE**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> gate does not have the three standard notices that are displayed on the other two gates. Since the gate is not normally locked this may be why people have been coming in to the garden before 8:30am. It was agreed that Keith should ask SHDC to make them. If necessary they can be consolidated into a single notice. They will be fixed to the wooden fence.

**Action:** Keith to contact SHDC

**6. EMAIL FROM TESS BROACH**

Tess Broach, a teacher at the Bridgetown Primary School had written to the LGA asking for advice (see attached). It was agreed that we should try to help her and Dave agreed to write to her with a list of forthcoming volunteer dates to see if she could meet any of them.

**Action:** Dave to email Tess.

**7. WATER FLOW**

WE currently do not know the source of the water flowing down the garden from near the bridge. It may be coming from the pool or it may be a naturally occurring issue, but it needs to be stopped or diverted into the existing watercourse. It was agreed that Dave should write to Alex Whish (stressing the urgency of the matter) asking SHDC to dig some exploratory trenches to find out where the water is coming from.

**Action:** Dave to write to Alex

**8. POOL AREA PLAN**

Keith had produced a plan improve much of the pool area with planting and seating (attached to these minutes). The pool area itself would be fenced off and gated (the existing gate would be removed). It was agreed that the fenced off area must include the possible location of the original leat feeding the pool. It was also agreed that any seating should be of the same high quality as that in the herb garden.

Financing the project was discussed. It was agreed that we should try to use (some of) the proposed £5000 grant from the Totnes Trust – that would require us to get some matching funds. Keith agreed to generate a detailed plan of work and Dave agreed to write to Jeremy

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Logie asking if we could have part of the Totnes Trust grant for this stage of the pool project (and have the rest when we were able to proceed with work on the actual pool). Roma agreed to talk to Liz Warnes about dates for tea and cake fundraising event

**Action:** Keith to produce a project plan,  
Roma to contact Liz  
Dave to write to Jeremy

### 9. FINANCES

Jeannette reported that the current account balance was £5375 (though Shirley has since paid in £218)

### 10. AOB:

Shirley reported that though sand pit cleaning was continuing (patchily) the sand pit itself needed refilling. Keith and Dave agreed to prod SHDC about this.

**Action:** Keith and Dave to contact SHDC

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Committee meeting will be on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May** at the REconomy Centre.

**Action:** Dave to book the room (**done**)

On 18 Apr 2019, at 16:42, Tess Broach <[TBroach@tsjprimary.org.uk](mailto:TBroach@tsjprimary.org.uk)> wrote:

Dear Leechwell Garden Association,

I am a grateful local resident and a frequent user of your glorious space. I am also a teacher at Totnes St John's Primary in Bridgetown. This term we are undertaking a huge project to develop and design garden spaces within our own gorgeous school grounds, and as part of this we are reaching out to local gardening associations in order to seek inspiration, advice and connection with our wider community.

I was wondering if you have any gardening experts who would be willing to show us around your beautiful grounds at Leechwell Gardens and answer some questions that we have about how we can best go about designing and developing gardens of our own back at school. In return we, and by that I mean myself and the children, would gladly offer some time weeding, planting, clearing or any other helpful jobs you could put us to work at!

In addition we are also looking for any volunteers who would be willing to come in to St John's to see the grounds we are hoping to develop and offer advice on how we can best use the spaces we have. Every class will be designing their own themed garden. My class are looking at developing areas that will support and encourage wildlife, for example.

Many thanks in advance for any support or advice you can offer.

Regards,  
Tess Broach

# Leechwell Garden Pool Project



Proposed works for the Leechwell Garden historical pool area; the map above shows the layout of the garden with the Leechwell pool area, showing existing hedges, trees and path plus some additional new features for the site.

## Aims of the project

- **Allow and improve access and overall safety of the space**
- **Protect the historic pool area and cordon off the area with knotweed**
- **Increase the visual amenity value of the space for recreation**
- **Habitat creation to increase biodiversity interest**

## Proposed Plan

### **New post and rail fencing, new gate and bench**

Works proposed include a new 14 meter post and rail fence to protect the pool and restrict public access, with a new gate used to access the pool area for maintenance. New bench to make the area more welcoming to the general public and local community.

### **Bulbs and Wildflowers**

Indigenous varieties of bulbs, which would provide an additional and lasting nectar source, can also be purchased and planted within the pool area that is currently covered by weed

suppressant. Removal of suppressant and prep, reseeding and planting of bulbs can be carried out as a volunteer task.

### **Other Habitats**

Habitat piles can be created as a great refuge for many insects and invertebrates, easy and cheap to create. This can be built using old rotting wood, earth and cuttings from any pruning and clearance already carried out on site.

### **Path improvement**

The path would benefit from being repaired, new edging boards and removing the vegetation from the surface, this can be carried out with the help of garden volunteers.

### **Other projects**

- Removal of old gate and repair of existing post
- Preparation for the wildflower meadow by removing the weed suppressant, working on the habitat piles and removing the green waste
- Site information/interpretation board about the pool and its history (not included in this quote)

### **Summary**

All the works proposed, the planting, path repairs, new bench, new gate and fencing, wild flower meadow can be carried out by ParkLife, working with the garden volunteers.

### **Costings**

Materials:

- Post and railing fencing, gate, gate hinge and latch approx = £320
- Edging for path approx = £100
- Aggregate and hire of whacker plate approx = £120

Bench:

- Bench, depending on type of materials used, 100% recycled plastic approx = £400

Labour:

- Installing fencing / gate and organising/supervising garden improvement for 2 days; 2 people, total 32 hours @ £20/hr = £640
- Install of new bench / path improvement - edging and new surface = £320

Project development and co-ordination:

- Time working on proposal approx = 6 hrs @ £20 = £120

### **Summary of cost**

Materials (fence, gate, path etc) = £540

Bench (approx) = £400

Labour (fence, gate, path etc) = £640

Labour (bench install) = £320

Project coordination = £120

**Total labour + materials = £2020**