

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 30th April 2014 at Totnes Fire Station

1 Present: Louise Overy (Chair); Shirley Prendergast; Jeanette Craig Willington; Susan Taylor; Elizabeth Warnes; Susan Boyd; Marsha Cummings

Apologies: David Mitchell; David Martin; Rachel Rafiqi; Keith Rennells; Ed Vidler; Catherine Munroe.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting: the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd April 2014 were agreed.

3 Matters Arising:

Rachel was to follow up on the arrangements for the next quiz at the Bay Horse and to check with Cathy. No update at the moment.

The new seats for the garden are now in place. Everyone is delighted with them.

Committee changes – Jeanette contacted Carol Wellwood, but she does not wish to join. Dave will contact Pruw Boswell to see if she would be prepared to join.

Water and watering – the arrangement using Dave Mitchell's supply had worked to some extent, but the flow of water is still insufficient. Experiments continue, but we may need to see if another pipe would work better. Meantime, we may need more watering cans.

Labour costs – Shirley had been asked by Ed not to e-mail Keith with a request to help meet additional labour costs. Ed said he had already visited the garden with Keith and Councillors (April 2nd) to see what was needed but no outcome as yet. It was felt that the Committee should have been consulted as to what was needed in the garden as it is they that have this information. If there is to be such another meeting in future, someone from the Committee should be invited. Shirley will write to Ed with a copy to Keith about the issues around funding.

Susan mentioned that the hedges need to be cut. We need to ask Keith whether this will be done in the autumn. Action: Lu

4 SHDC Update:

Keith emailed an update as unable to attend. He says that the gravel which was recently put on the pathways will need time to bind in. Time will tell whether it binds successfully. The Committee think that the new treatment differs from the original and that **SHDC were not sufficiently interested or resourced to be able to give us an adequate response, and that some of us, at least, felt a more urgent solution was required before the Spring event.** Lu will write to Keith again indicating that we are not happy about the method of treatment of the paths. We will monitor and flag to SHDC if the surface fails to bind.

Keith thought that the spraying of the knotweed around the pool had now been done.

Licensing issue: this is still ongoing.

5 Update on Plans for the Leechwell:

Shirley said that there had been a second meeting of Pool Group last week. Issues of funding and signage are underway and a specialist contractor will be giving a quotation for the work. SMC for the Well is relatively simple but SMC for the Pool would be a separate matter as it is too complicated to do both together.

6 Planning the Spring Celebration (Sunday 18th May)

Timing – 11am - 3pm but could go on a little longer if enough people around.

Setting up –plants for sale to be taken there the night before.

The new Mayor can attend the event at 12.30pm.

Publicity – posters need to go up a week or so beforehand. Lu to ask Jim Palmer to design the poster again. Lu will put details on Facebook and let Tourist Information know. Shirley will liaise with the Totnes Times to write about the new benches. Susan will arrange for a poster to be put in the window of the Tourist Information Office.

Stalls - Facepainting offered; there will be a cake and drinks stall, tombola and information about the garden, pool and well. Also a book and bric a brac stall. Prices for refreshments were discussed – decision made to increase last year's prices slightly.

Ed will obtain tables from the Civic Hall and bring the tombola. A bucket for donations can be got from Wendy Reid. Ed has some prizes for the tombola.

Shirley will contact Denbury to see about borrowing their coconut shy.

Lu will circulate a rota and list of stalls and ask Catherine about the harp player.

7 AGM

This matter was deferred until the next meeting.

8 Volunteers

This matter was deferred until the next meeting.

9 AOB

Water from the Leechwell: Jeannette was concerned that if we are responsible for the Well, the water should be tested as people continue to drink from the Well in spite of notices advising them not to. It was noted that the water has been tested, and it was agreed that it is not the Committee's responsibility to take further action.

Young Gardeners: Jeannette reported on the new project to plant up the area round the sculptures, to be undertaken by an older group of children under Rachel's auspices. The project was welcomed.

Future wassail event: Liz suggested that once the apple trees are delivered in the autumn, we could involve the Grove school and arrange a wassail event with them. The correct traditions will be checked out, of course. The meeting agreed that this was a good addition to the garden year.

Annual calendar: it was suggested that the committee should create an annual calendar of events for the garden so that we can ensure timely planning. Agreed. (an item for the January meeting?)

Requests to use the Garden: Lu gave details of 2 requests. The first, from Totnes & Dartington Open Studios ('sketch crawl') was approved. The second, from the Grove School PTA (after school July celebration), was deferred pending Lu meeting with the PTA chair and checking details (UPDATE: the PTA has decided not to go ahead).

Drug problem in the garden: suspicious activity reported recently. Use 101 to inform police and get action as necessary.

Updated garden sign: Liz brought text for a new garden entrance sign from Jeremy Logie, member of TDT, following feedback from the Community Policing Office that the current sign isn't sufficient. It was agreed that this was a matter for South Hams DC, not the LGA. Liz to pass this on.

Length of meeting: Lu suggested that the committee meeting could usefully last longer than an hour, to ensure time for necessary (and only sufficient!) discussion of points raised. While we have the meetings under the current arrangement, this isn't possible. For future consideration.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Association is on Wednesday May 28th at 6pm.