

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2022 AGM

held at Leechwell Cottage, 5.30pm, Tue December 13th 2022

Present: Sue Holmes (Chair), Paul Church (Treasurer), Robert Vint (minutes), Dave Mitchell, David Martin, Shirley Prendergast, Roma Church, Ernesto Antonio

Apologies: Lu Overy

1. Brief Report from the Chair – Sue Holmes

Sue reported on maintenance of the garden as follows:

The focus this year has been on making Leechwell Garden look more like a garden, and viewed less as a park by visitors or a playground by local authorities, and also to increase biodiversity, wildlife habitats and year-long blooms for pollinators.

The 3 main beds of the former herb garden were completely redesigned and replanted, including the pergola climbers. The fig tree bed was improved, a new tub sited by the entrance, the area around the 3 Guardians replanted, and 3 large new beds were cleared, designed and planted: under the crab apple tree, under the bushes near the shed and a new Devon bank by the compost bins. Several areas are still being developed, including the bank next to the water shed, behind the large hawthorn, behind the waterfall, the lower pond, an area dedicated to Susie Boyd by the lower entrance, and trees from donations. The proposed Wildlife Garden will include additional flowering plants and complete the outer perimeter green corridor. Hundreds of bulbs have also been planted throughout the Garden.

Maintenance itself has been hard this year, with much time spent watering, especially the newly planted areas, but it also includes clearing and raking paths, sweeping paved areas, keeping the stream flowing, removing rubbish and debris, cutting back internal hedges, shrubs and trees as well as composting, weeding, dead-heading and replacing plants lost to anti-social behaviour. I have been particularly grateful for Ernesto's help on a Thursday morning for the heavy work, as most of Ross' time has been spent on other maintenance areas, including meadows, pool garden and tree cutting.

Large piles of waste material have been removed and composting once again is under control, though new bins are needed.

Next year should see the benefit of this year's input of effort, cost and time, and an event around the installation of the new noticeboard could provide the opportunity to encourage more volunteers to come forward.

2. LGA Accounts: Treasurer's Report – Paul Church

Paul summarised the accounts as follows:

Balance as a 1 Dec 2021	£4,888.85
Income	£1,783.44
Total	£6,672.29
Expenditure	-£3,464.67
Balance as a 30 Nov 2022	£3,207.62

A full summary is *attached*.

3. Election of the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

Sue is standing down as Chair. Dave offered to take over the role for a year.

Shirley agreed to be Secretary for the next year.

Paul agreed to continue as Treasurer.

All were duly elected.

4. Confirmation of Committee Members

Roma has stood down from the committee.

Ernesto was welcomed to the committee.

All other members agreed to continue, so the committee will continue to have eight members.

5. Report on the Water-Mark project from Robin Lacey

attached

6. Date of next Committee Meeting:

Tuesday 7th February 5.30pm at the REconomy Centre.