

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 at the REconomy Centre. Leechwell Street

**PRESENT:** Sue Holmes (Chair), David Mitchell (Secretary), Paul Church (Treasurer), Philip Strange, Roma Church, Shirley Prendergast, Robert Vint

**1. APOLOGIES:** Lu Overy, David Martin

**2. MINUTES:** the minutes of the last meeting, on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021, which had no outstanding actions, were ignored.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**4. INTRODUCTION**

Sue welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented Dave with a book to mark his 10 years as chair. The committee welcomed Robert and unanimously agreed to co-opt him on to the committee. Sue outlined her plans for the meeting – the success and popularity of the Leechwell Garden has meant that it is treated more as a **park** than a **garden** and we need to look at ways of making visitors see and treat it as a garden. She noted that a page about the garden would appear in next month's Totnes Directory (thanks to all who worked on it) and this was definitely a step in the right direction

**5. IDEAS DISCUSSED**

A lot of ideas were raised and discussed:

- Interpretation boards and signage in the garden to point out specific features and plants (particularly names of trees) with QR codes to point to appropriate websites
- a large (and up-to-date) plan of the garden – displayed near Susie's Fig Tree (with the added advantage of discouraging children climbing the tree).
- ways to discourage children (and adults) trampling flower beds (low edging?)
- regular publicity of Philip's photos of interesting plants and insects (Roma adds words to the notice board but we should increase awareness of the Facebook and Instagram pages
- simplify the current website

**6. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER GROUPS**

It was agreed that we should ensure the minutes were distributed to HWW and Cllr Birch as well as to SHDC (Rob Sekula). We should encourage them to tell us of any issues or proposals they have.

**7. ADDITIONAL NOTES BY SUE**

**CCTV:** Totnes Town Council is conducting a survey on possible sites and cost for CCTV cameras, which includes the Lamb and Leechwell Gardens as well as the Market Square, following complaints about anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and environmental health issues. I have asked the Maintenance Officer to give us possible options so that LGA can agree on positioning. However, their installation in all sites is being looked at as one project, so if TTC do not pass it as a whole, the one at Leechwell Garden will not go ahead. Therefore, LGA might need to consider its own alternative.

**STREAM FENCE/HEDGE:** ParkLife met with HHW residents 1 February and agreed the line of fence and hedge to protect the watercourse and HHW privacy. This will be paid for by SHDC: the fence will be installed by the manufacturers and the hedge, of the same mix as the existing boundary hedge that it will adjoin, will be planted by ParkLife.

**PERGOLA:** SHDC have now cut back the roses from the pergola without cost to LGA so that repairs can be carried out, and new climbers to provide year-round colour will be planted by volunteers to augment 2 or 3 roses that will be allowed to regrow.

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**PARKLIFE:** I met with Keith on 1 February to discuss ParkLife's future role for SHDC and LGA. He agreed that ParkLife would offer project development, funding and management to LGA when we have identified specific projects, working as contractors for LGA, while continuing to be paid by SHDC for meadow maintenance on 3 areas in Leechwell Garden and other work, such as the fence/hedge above. I am very grateful to have them still providing these services, which otherwise would have fallen to LGA members. ParkLife will include their management costs in funding applications.

**8. AOB**

It had been suggested that dates for future meetings should be fixed (say the first Tuesday or Wednesday of each month) rather than being decided in an ad-hoc manner. All those present agreed that the current time, 6-7pm, was preferable and Dave agreed to circulate a proposal to see if anyone had strong preferences as to the best day of the week.

**NEXT MEETING:** the date will be set when the above proposal is agreed by all, but is likely to be either Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup> or Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>.