

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
1st March 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, David Martin

1. APOLOGIES: Lu Overy

2. MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting, on 1st February 2022 were approved.

CCTV: TTC not currently going ahead (finances)

Fence: as reported by David, not all the posts required had been delivered so the work could not be started. It may be 2 or 3 weeks before the fence over the stream is erected.

Pergola: Sue has had little luck contacting Tim Crowley about this so we may need to find someone else to do the work.

Sue also mentioned that she was updating the Garden Trail and associated signage. **SHDC will perform redesign of the pamphlet - they will be encouraged to absorb the £500 cost. Additional costs for printing and production of noticeboard inserts of circa £500 will be presented by Paul to the Totnes Trust which has supported with such costs in the past.**

4. TOTNES DIRECTORY

All agreed that this was a great success and the offer of a monthly page was to be welcomed. Roma said we should make each month's issue newsworthy and relevant to what was going on in the garden.

Sue needed new photos of the main gate and of the 3 guardians (the only decent photo which shows them without staining is of rather poor quality). Philip agreed to take them. Sue had also written to Rosie Musgrave asking if and how the statues should be cleaned. **Rosie replied offering to come and clean if we wanted.**

5. PLAN FOR 2022 AND MAINTENANCE

Sue briefly discussed her plan for 2022 (see attached) which was based on the discussions at last month's committee meeting. She emphasized that we needed a maintenance agreement with SHDC to properly document what they were prepared to do (grass cutting, hedge trimming etc).

She intended that, starting at the next meeting (held in the garden if the weather is suitable) we should try to form teams to look after various elements of the plan. She also said she had plans for plantings along the devon bank above the shed.

There was some discussion of a large bug house (like the "Btingham Palace" at Dartington).

She mentioned the Totnes and Brompton Festival of Arts and Culture planned for August (see visittotnes.co.uk for details) – there should be events in the garden.

6. SANDCASTLE UPDATE

Shirley reported that the work by Andy **installing the two sand tables (which included larch boards donated by EarthWrights)** had been a great success. In the event it took Andy 2.5 days. The total cost will be **£317 – in budget and covered by donations.** Paul agreed to arrange payment.

It was also agreed that the sandcastle fence had been transformative – although toddlers collected water from the pool to take into the sandcastle, there was very little sign of the reverse – toddlers taking sand out of the sandcastle. Adults seemed to oversee their children more too.

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8. FINANCES

Paul was still waiting for Lloyds to complete the transfer from Jeannette but it was almost sorted. By the time the various outstanding payments are made, the account should be £4464 in credit. **Costs of £144 (Paul o/a Ross) and £317 (Shirley o/a Sandpit tables) to be reimbursed once the banking signatories have been changed**

AOB.

Philip wondered if Keith would be dealing with the wild flower meadow this March as he had last year. Sue said that ParkLife have funding (from SHDC) and will be doing it this month.

Roma and Philip mentioned that owls (tawny and barn) often visited the garden in the evenings. It was suggested we should put the bird boxes in the shed up in some of the trees.

Sue has planted 2 climbers on the pergola – more to come.

Sue cancelled the volunteer session on 28th Feb as she was feeling unwell.

Sue has hired a shredder from the ShareShed to deal with the twigs etc left over from the SHDC hedge cutting. Dave thinks he has access to one we can use in future.

NEXT MEETING: Paul suggested that 5:30-6:30pm was a better time for LGA meetings – it fitted in better with evening meals. Dave agreed to alter the current REconomy Centre bookings (**now done up to the September meeting**). The next meeting will thus be on Tuesday 5th April, starting at 5:30pm. If the weather permits it will be held in the Leechwell Garden.

LEECHWELL GARDEN 2022

Aims: to rebalance Leechwell Garden as a garden not a playground; to encourage more wildlife and diversity; to enhance public art; to improve communication within the Garden, with the community and local organisations.

GARDEN	NATURE	ART	COMMS
STAGE 1			
More flowering plants, climbers, underplanting of internal hedges	Year round nectar, berries, seedheads. Green corridor	Design of identification signs	Labelling and mapping
Improved maintenance, more volunteers	Protection of wildlife	Clean 3 Guardians	Agreement with SHDC
Garden identifier of gate in publicity	Associated wildlife image	Public artists identified on labels	All signage, Totnes Directory
STAGE 2			
Zoning: flower garden, wildlife garden, water garden etc	Nature trail	Design of markers	Fingerposts
Focus on garden elements	Photos and information on wildlife	Link to Public Art video	Update website + social media
New design for underused area at top of Garden with seating, tree sections and bank plants	Bug hotel, bird boxes, habitats, educational zone	Art integrated into design	Interpretation board, leaflets, talks
STAGE 3			
New garden around immersion pool with link to heritage	Nature reserve and habitats for snakes, toads and long cripplers	New public art commissioned	Local media publicity, crowd funding?
Garden parties	Wildlife tent	Performance art	June (Jubilee) ? August(festival)

Sue Holmes 10.2.22