

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING (4/23)

2nd May 2023. Held in the Garden

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Paul Church (Treasurer), Sue Holmes, David Martin, Lu Ovary, Shirley Prendergast (Sec)

1. APOLOGIES: Robert Vint, Ernesto Antonio

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting on 4th April 2023 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

3a Relating to correspondence/discussion of items with Keith:

-Replacement beech ordered for the lower boundary hedge.

-New information board: Keith is pretty sure (not yet 100%) that the new board (text and images as developed by Dave, Sue and Shirley) could be produced by the SHDC design team. Frame and installation should also be covered but would be done by ParkLife.

-Wild flower meadow. Andrew is meeting with Sue to discuss what can be done to ameliorate the lack of colour/interest/flowering plants in the meadow- planted by ParkLife- which has persisted for several years now.

-The Committee sent their best wishes for Keith's continued recovery.

3b Website, PayPal and water supply problems - Dave has in hand.

3c Brown bin collection service – URGENT. Three requests for a label to allow us to use existing brown bin- no response to far. Shirley still chasing. We cannot manage upkeep of the garden without some form of garden waste collection. If not a brown bin collection we will have to ask SHDC to collect garden waste some other way- a very expensive option.

4. Replacement benches: Agreed to ask SHDC to replace the large bench with one of the recycled plastic benches they are now using. David reported that the legs of the chess bench appeared structurally sound and should support a new top. Agreed that this was a popular bench, accessible to toddlers, and that we approach Carpenter Oak (Paul) and EarthWrights (Shirley) to see if they have a suitably quirky offcut they might donate for free.

5. Play structure: Thanks to Ross and Sue SHDC have replaced the (dangerously) rotted posts. Sue noted that in theory the play structure had only two years to run before being replaced- in which case we needed to ensure plans for this were in

hand with SHDC. However, it was felt that, with care, it may last longer than this and that much of the structure could be repaired or reused.

6. Ernesto's Walk. We applauded Ernesto's amazing progress and tenacity through extremely difficult territory and wished him well. About 70-80% of his target of £500 has already been achieved. Lu raised possibility of a later fundraising event (Albatross?) when Ernesto returned (and had rested!)

7. Tree map. Sue and Wendy are compiling a map of the trees in the garden using Charlotte Rathbone's original plus new additions. This will go on a board in the wildlife garden

8. Finances. Paul noted that current reserves- from which Ross is paid- had fallen to £2,700 and it was agreed that this be replenished to original level- 3K.

Noted that we need to find new ways of raising additional funds which are not too time consuming for the committee.

9. AOB None