

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 3rd February 2016 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: Dave Mitchell, Jim Carfrae, Shirley Prendergast, Marsha Cummings, David Martin, Jeannette Willington, Keith Rennells, Lu Overy

1. APOLOGIES: Susie Boyd

Committee news: Ed Vidler has resigned from the committee. Marsha has given up the role of Secretary. Many thanks to Marsha for sterling work! Lu is filling the gap with David as back-up. Jeannette is happy to continue as Treasurer – thanks to Jeannette.

2. MINUTES: the minutes from the meeting of 16th December 2015 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING: None.

4. REPLACEMENT OF THE PLAY STRUCTURE

Finance

Dave has explored the possibility of avoiding payment of VAT, but it now seems inevitable that we will have to pay VAT on the new structure. Keith however is confident that we will be able to cover all costs via SHDC and other sources (see details below). We are likely to end up with around £7500 to raise ourselves. Confirmation of SHDC's funding should come after their Exec meeting on March 10th. It is also possible that we may be able to go back and ask for more, if the available pot is not exhausted by other applications.

We were turned down by the Network of Wellbeing, despite their encouragement to apply – it seems they are more focused on very small projects without other resources. Jacqui Hodgson in her SHDC councillor capacity said she could not contribute as she represent Dartington, not Totnes. Dave will write to her as Town Council Mayor since she indicated that Totnes Town Council could make a contribution. Santander want to fund a project, not make a contribution to something larger. The 'basket swing' was identified as a suitable element at the right cost to make an application possible.

It was agreed that the LGA will contribute £1000.

Design

(Keith will recirculate the Earthwright's proposal)

There was detailed discussion of the submissions from Earthwrights, Wicksteed and Sutcliffe (Playdale's submission dismissed as inadequate). Earthwright's was viewed as the best in terms of demonstrating the fit with the landscape, although for public consultation purposes they need to reprint on bigger and glossier paper, to enable proper comparison with the other schemes.

Some questions about materials sourcing and life expectancy remain.

Action: Keith to follow up

The aim is to build in April/May to be ready for use by the Spring Event in May/June.

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Consultation

It was decided to hold a consultation in the garden on Saturday 5th March. We can use tables to display the designs (or the boards that Dave has) and the gazebos is the weather is against us.

The idea is for people to make comments on what they like or don't like - to guide the LGA's final decision.

Keith will inform SHDC that we are having the consultation.

Publicity – Shirley will draft something for the Totnes Times and display boards. Lu will post on Facebook and send to Friends. Lu will also inform Heath Way residents.

5. AOB:

Garden watering – solution to be implemented before we need it!

Action: Dave and Jim

Rose pruning – Keith suggested Alex can advise

Action: Keith to contact Alex

Spring Event – to be arranged once we know when the play structure will be finished, to fit in with this

Willow pollarding – there were no objections to the proposed pollarding of the three willows above the bank near the Heath Way houses.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 2nd March, 6pm at the Reconomy Centre.

Action: Dave to book the room

Other Funding Sources:

LGA	£1000
SHDC Councillors Green and Horsburgh	£500
SHDC/DC Councillor Vint	£500+
Totnes Town Council	£500
Santander Community Plus	£4500
Total	£7000+