

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING (6/23)

DRAFT

4th July 2023. Held in Re-Economy Centre.

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), David Martin, Sue Holmes, Robert Vint, Ernesto Antonio, Shirley Prendergast (Sec)

1. APOLOGIES: Lu Ovary

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting on 6nd June 2023 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

3a Knife sharpening- for garden tools. Dave has found somewhere in Paignton and will enquire whether Share Shed offer this service - which would be conveniently close.

3b Anti-social behaviour in the garden- a stache of things were discovered hidden in the immersion pool area, including sleeping and cooking equipment. There has been no other sign of rough sleeping in the garden and it was decided that no action was needed at the moment. Problems with dogs, frisby games and bikes were also reported.

3c Brown bin collection service: – Five requests and 10 emails to SHDC for a collection label to allow us to use existing brown bin- have now been passed on to Grounds Maintenance Team with no response to far. *Will take this up in person with Paul Chambers.*

3d Replacement benches: i. *Agreed to ask SHDC to replace the large bench with one of their recycled plastic benches which matches those in garden already.*

ii. Herb Garden benches- David has done a temporary repair to the back support posts. *Will contact Liam again who has been away) to see if he might be able to do long term repairs.* David noted that handmade benches of this quality would cost thousands to replace and that Build Point in Totnes do be-spoke joinery.

iii. Andy Davidson has adapted, refitted and sanded the new top to the chess bench which is now safe and stronger and looking more attractive.

4. Children in the lower pool: Despite notices and the new fence, children are still playing in the lower round pool area and disturbing wildlife. Various deterrence measures were discussed- including better signs, adding netting to the bottom of the fence and planting the surrounding grass with holly and other prickly foliage.

5. Donation Box: has been out of action for two weeks with a broken wall fixing. David will re-attach temporarily *but a better solution might be to embed the box into the masonry behind. This would stop the box being used as a support for intruders climbing over the wall. We will contact Paul Chambers about this.*

Agreed that we needed to meet to review the notices etc on this wall, which is looking rather cluttered.

6. Circulation List for Minutes: Agreed to remove ParkLife as they no longer have the same role and involvement in the garden as before, and to add District Councillor Anna Presswell to the list.

7. SHDC response to recent letter: Committee were pleased to hear that SHDC will include the new info board for the garden in their notice board renewal programme, and that *other key issues relating to management, maintenance and funding of Leechwell, Lamb and Heath's Gardens will be taken up in a meeting arranged by Councillor Anna Presswell to which Sue is invited.*

8. Wildlife Garden. The Committee were delighted to hear that the Totnes Trust has donated a grant of £750 towards the Wildlife Garden. This together with Ernesto's sponsorship raises almost all of the £1500 needed for Stage 1. Of the project. Sue will be discussing further ideas/details in the near future.

9. Paul (LGA Treasurer) noted that: net funds in the LG Account stood at £2,700 (in addition to £750 from Totnes Trust and £530 from Ernesto's sponsorship money) while 3k was held in reserve for regular monthly gardening services (Ross)

Next meeting. 5th September in the Garden or Re-Economy Centre as appropriate (No meeting in August)