

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in the REconomy Centre

**PRESENT:** Sue Holmes (Chair), David Mitchell (Secretary), Paul Church (Treasurer), Roma Church, Lu Overy, Ernesto Antonio

**1. APOLOGIES:** David Martin, Shirley Prendergast

**2. PREVIOUS MINUTES:** the minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were approved.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

The committee welcomed Ernesto (a key volunteer) to the committee. Given that Paul and Roma will be moving before long, Roma announced that Pam Scott had agreed to look after the donation box (including banking the funds) but did not want to join the committee.

**4. WILDLIFE GARDEN PROJECT**

Since nothing had been heard from Keith lately, no-one was clear if the survey work had been completed.

There was some discussion about the hedge around the meadow. It was agreed that the hedge facing Heathway should be lowered but not removed. This would make it possible for people to see in and out without encouraging them to enter the meadow that way.

**5. Leechwell Garden Plan** (attached below).

Sue went through the items that had been more or less completed (most of the Stage 1 items except those relating to art and signage). Several of the stage 2 items were also moving ahead. As far as Stage 3 was concerned the immersion pool item has been postponed though it was noted that the pipe that carries water over the pool (to prevent flooding) seems to have broken. **Paul agreed to contact SHDC** to get this fixed. It was agreed that the picnic table by Carpenter Oak should be regarded as the commissioned piece of public art.

**6. Financial Statement**

Paul announced that we have £3599 in the LGA account and received £60 in donations. Sue had recently met with Jeannette who said that Jane Taylor had wanted to donate £50 in memory of Susie Boyd – perhaps a tree would be a suitable purchase.

**7. AOB**

Dave mentioned the RHS. Paul wondered if we still need to belong as he thought they no longer offered to volunteer insurance and that we paid for it separately. It was agreed that **Paul should check** and if that was the case we should end our RHS membership (which costs around £150 a year). Lu wondered if we could raise money by selling cards (e.g. using some of Philip's photos). There was some discussion about how payments could be made (QR codes to our PayPal account?).

Paul outlined the recent meeting of the Heath Way West committee. The only major concern was the trimming of the lower bank which had destroyed some of the planting the homeowners had done. It was agreed that the lower bank should not be cut until the end of September from now on. Finally given the recent decision by SHDC to cease free garden waste collection, **Paul agreed to check** that SHDC would deal with the Leechwell Garden for free and to invoice SHDC for the £300 the LGA paid for waste removal back in early August. An article appeared in the Totnes Times on 6<sup>th</sup> October from ParkLife asking for volunteers for their projects which presumably will include Leechwell Garden.

**8. NEXT MEETING:** the next meeting will be on Tuesday November 1st (the REconomy Centre room is already booked). It was also agreed to hold the AGM at the REconomy Centre on Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, followed by a party to be held at Leechwell Cottage.

## 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.

<b>GARDEN</b>	<b>NATURE</b>	<b>ART</b>	<b>COMMS</b>
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 crippers	New public art commissioned	Local media publicity, crowd funding?
Garden parties	Wildlife tent	Performance art	June (Jubilee) ? August(festival)

Sue Holmes 10.2.22