

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
5th April 2022 at the REconomy Centre. Leechwell Street

PRESENT: Sue Holmes (Chair), David Mitchell (Secretary), Paul Church (Treasurer), Philip Strange, Roma Church, Lu Overy, Robert Vint, David Martin

1. APOLOGIES: Shirley Prendergast

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES: the minutes of the last meeting, on 1st March 2022, were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

CCTV: Following the assault on the Mayor on March 20th, there is a plan to raise the height of the street light in the footpath (near the Herb Garden) and install a CCTV camera on it.

Totnes Directory: Sue thanked David and Philip for their efforts, noting that several people, having read it, commented that they had not realised the garden was looked after by LGA volunteers rather than the council. Robert suggested putting a QR code in the next edition, directing people to the FaceBook or Instagram pages.

ParkLife funding for dealing the 'meadows': Sue would check with Keith to see if they were being funded to do this.

3. 2022 PLAN UPDATE

Sue handed out a document detailing the work that had been carried out since Autumn 2021 (attached). She also showed her colour-coded plan of garden areas (see below). Dave noted that he intended to try to update the garden plan produced by Charlotte Rathbone back in 2009 which is now hopelessly out of date.

Sue also noted that the boggy area above the waterfall (due to a leak from the pool) is now quite dangerous but is also very popular with children who use the area above as a sort of den. We need to decide whether to make it inaccessible or safe. Fixing the leak will have to be done without touching the pool (because it's a scheduled ancient monument) – it might be possible to install a French drain to deal with the outflow.

4. PROJECTS

Sue noted performance of "Midsummer's Night Dream" in the garden just before r the May half-term) organized by Helen Sands and the garden party to take place on August 18-19 as part of the Totnes and Bridgetown Festival or Arts and Culture (see <https://www.visittotnes.co.uk/whats-on/totnes-and-bridgetown-festival-of-arts-and-culture-2022/>).

5. MAINTENANCE

The volunteer sessions will move to Thursdays after April.

6. SHDC

We need to ensure that SHDC do the tasks they have agreed to (schedule set up by Keith). So far they have not mowed/cut the grass.

7. TTC

Sue noted with annoyance that the new "Visit Totnes" brochure (of which hundreds have been printed and maps in wide circulation) merely described that Leechwell Garden as a "Playground"

8. FINANCES

Paul noted that he now has online access to the LGA account. He has arranged payments to Ross, Shirley and himself. The current balance is £4159. He and Roma suggested we should make it easy for people to make donations via the LGA Facebook and Instagram accounts since we now have lots of followers.

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9. AOB – none.

NEXT MEETING: will be on Tuesday May 3rd starting at 5:30pm. It will be held in the garden, weather permitting, or at the REconomy Centre.

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WORK CARRIED OUT AT LEECHWELL GARDEN

Autumn 2021 to Spring 2022

PROJECTS

Sandcastle erected

Tables installed

(New wildlife and bog gardens)

MAINTENANCE BY LGA

3 main flower beds cleared of weeds and replanted

3 Guardians area cleared

Shrubs and climbers trimmed, brambles removed above waterfall

Internal hedges cut back and underplanted

Stream cleared of rubbish, trays and weeds

Overgrown watermint removed

Iris replanted and planting added around

Paths kept tidied, weeded and cleared of twigs

Trees cut back including fig, hawthorn and crabapple

Waste bins re-organised: 1 for leaf mould, 1 active, 1 being emptied for compost

Some rubbish shredded

Shed tidied

Top of wildflower bank cleared of brambles, stones and rubbish : awaiting replanting

New climbers for pergola

Old rose stumps removed

Picnic table repaired

Sections of lime tree used for wildlife habitats

Walls being cleared of ivy for planting

INFORMATION

Pages in 3 editions of Totnes Directory

New articles/notices in noticeboard and by flower beds

Plan for 2022 agreed

SHDC

Agreed a new maintenance plan

Lime tree damaged in storm cut down

Boundary hedges cut and branches removed

Cutdown roses from pergola

Fence and hedge between sandpit and lower pool

Handrail to lower steps

Drain at bottom of lower steps

Mature trees inspected

Meadow area maintained: note -3 year funding withdrawn

(Dead trees to be removed) (CCTV?)

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Sue Holmes April 2022

Sue's Color-Coded Plan

