

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
5th September 2022 in the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: Sue Holmes (Chair), David Mitchell (Secretary), Paul Church (Treasurer), Roma Church, David Martin, Shirley Prendergast, Keith Rennells (Park Life), Holly Stewart (Park Life)

1. APOLOGIES: Lu Overy

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES: the minutes of the meeting on 5th July 2022 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. PROJECTS

The main purpose of the meeting (and the reason for Keith and Holly's presence) was to discuss the Wildlife Garden project. Attached to these minutes are Sue's map of the garden areas and Keith's document listing details and possible costs.

Keith reminded the meeting that Park Life was a not-for-profit organization that did not 'bid' for projects but acted as a facilitator for community environmental projects - obtaining funds or grants and then arranging for the work to be done. Keith had already drafted a lottery grant proposal, with castings, that Sue had distributed to the committee so the bulk of the meeting was spent with Keith explain how Park Life would do the necessary work:

1. Proving more detail for an "Awards for All" lottery bid (max £10K)
2. Conducting a survey of garden users to provide the necessary proof of community support.

He thought that the project's emphasis on wildlife would not only improve our chances of obtaining a grant but would also make it easier to get volunteers to help with the work (a key part of ParkLife's approach). In answer to a question Keith said that the long-term maintenance of the wildlife area would be factored into the bid.

It was agreed that "Pool Garden" (called Magdelene Garden and marked 6 on Sue's Plan) should **not** be part of the project because of its likely cost and dependence on Heritage England

As far as timing was concerned, Keith felt the survey should be completed this month and the grant application submitted by early October (most of the actual work would be best done during the Winter months). Keith asked us to give him a definitive go-ahead and all present agreed.

There was some discussion of fund-raising – unfortunately most of the 'locality budget's of SHDC councilors has been exhausted. Dave volunteered to provide any 'front-loading' that might be required.

5. AOB

Finance: Paul had proposed the following budgetary items for approval:

1. Totnes festival events printing costs: £50 (to be recovered from additional donations)
2. Autumn planting budget: £100

The committee approved this. It was also agreed that a £3000 sinking fund should be maintained.

Meadow maintenance: Sue said that the LGA had paid Ross to do the necessary work but felt that Keith had previously agreed to do it. Keith said he didn't do it because that he felt his approach of doing the maintenance twice a year was not what the LGA wanted. It was agreed that since the meadow was a key part of the wildlife project we could discuss and agree details once the project was underway.

Keith said he thought that the pool area was now free of Japanese Knotweed thanks to Andrew's treatment!

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6. NEXT MEETING: the next meeting will be on Tuesday October 4th (the REconomy Centre room is already booked). There will probably be another meeting with Keith before that to discuss the details of the Lottery Bi and the noticeboards that are a key part of the wildlife project.

Sue's Plan



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Item	Area		Cost	Labour
1a	7	Seating and table around tree stump The seating at the Glade (Sue wanted something similar) looks handmade and potentially costly. I've managed to find some seating options and to match her idea of the stump as the table, we could buy and fix on a table top to the stump separately. Some of them are quite pricey! The stump is on uneven ground so the half circle seating is probably better or levelling the ground would be necessary. A new plan to buy the timber and have Andrew lead on building the seating and table.	500	1000
1b	7	Tree stump fairy ring Robinia wood can be dug into the ground without a sleeve as it's very long lasting. To be made by Earth Wrights. Alternatively use lime and other locally sourced log sections	500	500
1c	7	Bug hotel 6 pallets free from SHC. Volunteers/local families can bring organic material to fill the pallets. Need timer for roof, 4 posts and screws.	200	500
1d	7	Interpretation panel Recycled plastic lectern style A3. Recycled stand (could come from the local DCW plastic recycling centre Recycled plastic lectern stands: £359 for stand, more for graphic designer and print	1000	250
1e	7	Additional wildlife habitats Move the right-hand side debris pile (pile onto left pile if possible) to make space for fairy ring. Potential for den building area with leftover branches/sticks. Install bat boxes. Log pile. Stone pile	200	500
2a	6	Erection of arch for roses Very rustic tree branch arch at Dartington gardens - 2 branches drilled together, assuming it's treated	500	750
2b	6	Siting of stones and logs for amphibians and reptiles Stones to be piled in the top right hand corner. Some granite stones to be moved from Hollys house to Leechwell. Log pile at the top left closest to gate, avoiding the area that will have an archaeological dig. Lime logs there already which could be used in zone 7 for habitat or left where they are.	250	250
2c	6	New planting (wildflowers)	350	250
2d	6	Pond clearance, addition of water and bog plants Need to know the depth of the pond for appropriate water plants and get permission from Heritage England before starting.	350	250
2e	6	Noticeboard re; Maudlin hospital heritage and wildlife Dibond - Alluminium composite board	1500	1000
3a	7/8	Addition of flowering and berried hedging to existing hedges, underplanted bulbs Plant hedging in winter. Hedging: Guelder rose, spindle, hawthorn, crab apple, rowan, wayfaring tree (viburnum lantana). Underplanting: native bluebells, snowdrops, wild garlic, wood anemone, Solomon's Seal (Polygonatum multiflorum). Clearance of some ivy to allow for bulbs to flourish. Early, mid ad late spring bulbs:	600	500
4a	8	Wildlife friendly shrubs and underplanting Privet, spindle, guelder rose. Underplanting with wildflower mix. Wildflower plug plants option: Woodland bulb collection 150 bulbs for £75.95. Solomons seal plant 1 = £6 plus delivery. potential to buy from garden centre. Wildflower underplanting mixes £11 - £30. Wildflower plug plants: 50 for £64.50 plus delivery.	300	500
			6250	6250