

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING (5/23)

6th June 2023. Held in the Garden

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

1. APOLOGIES: Paul Church, David Martin

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

3. MATTERS ARISING:

3a Wildflower meadow. Sue has met with Andrew (ParkLife) and they have agreed to a further meeting on 7th June.

3b Website, PayPal and water supply problems - Dave has added photos to the website, transferred £28 from Paypal to the Wildlife Garden Fund and resolved water supply issues.

3c Brown bin collection service – URGENT. Four requests to SHDC for a label to allow us to use existing brown bin- no response to far. Shirley still chasing.

3d Replacement benches: SHDC (many thanks to Paul Chambers) have kindly supplied and fixed a replacement top to the chess bench. Will investigate need to round off sharp edges. Agreed to ask SHDC to replace the large bench with one of their recycled plastic benches- Lu and Ernesto made some suggestions as to suitable examples. To be explored further (Shirley).

4. New Information Board for Garden entrance. Dave, Sue and Shirley have produced a design including a new map of the garden (Dave) and associated text, illustrations and photos (Jan O'Highway) based on the Totnes Trail board in Heath's Garden. We are hoping that this can be included in the upgrade of open space information boards currently being undertaken by the SHDC Design Team.

5. Letter to SHDC; The LGA has written to SHDC about the information board (above) and highlighted shared goals in looking after the Leechwell Garden, looking at how we might work together to overcome constraints including funding, resources and workforce issues..

6. Ernesto's Walk. We met at Leechwell Cottage to thank Ernesto and celebrate the successful conclusion to his walk. Some stats: Ernesto walked 1042K overall, averaging 37K per day over 28 days, often on very rough terrain. He did 50K on the longest day! There are photos on Facebook. So far the walk has raised £535 in sponsorship towards the new Wildlife Garden and it is hoped that the Totnes Times will do a follow up article which may raise additional funding.

7. AOB. Sue noted that she has found discarded syringes at the Lamb Garden which pose a danger to gardeners and visitors alike. She has reported this to SHDC.

Next meeting. Tuesday 4th July in the Garden.