

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING (7/23)

6th September 2023. Held in Re-Economy Centre.

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

1. APOLOGIES: Paul Church

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting on 4th July 2023 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

3a Waste collection re brown bin: now up and running and David is managing the collection process.

3b Tool sharpening: Ernesto has arranged for it to be done at Dartington.

3c Donation box: thanks to David for securing the donation box on a metal pillar by entrance gate, which should prevent further vandalism. Thanks also to David for painting the shed.

3d Benches: still no solution to more permanent repair of herb garden benches. Dave will contact SHDC regarding plastic replacement for the big bench by the spinner- to match those already in the garden.

3e Councillor Presswell: has not yet met with SHDC re the important issues of management, maintenance and funding of the three gardens (see Minutes of meeting 4. 7. 23 item 7)

3f Children accessing lower pool: David and Shirley have drawn up checklist of possibilities to deter this. It was decided that new notices had improved the situation and no further action needed for now.

4. New Information Board: Dave suggested that we go ahead with a temporary A1 sized board based on research already completed by Dave, Sue and Shirley. Dave offered to pay for the board and Shirley offered to pay for supporting posts and fixing. The board would fit inside the main gate on LHS by the plant table. Agreed. Dave and Shirley will liaise.

5. Serious incident of falling bird box: (could have harmed child sitting beneath the tree) Ross had initially secured box with strong rubber fixing but this had perished over time. Dave to investigate Issue of insurance cover with Ross.

6. Unknown white substance in Leechwell water trough: Sue has reported this to TTC and SHDC and asked for water to be tested. It was felt that because the water is not advertised/ certified as safe for consumption, responsibility for how it is used in the garden lies with individuals/parents concerned so no further action is needed.

7. Treasurers report: Paul noted (email) that funds in LGA account on 2.9.23 (incl £750 from Totnes Trust) stood at £3092. Agreed that, as donations are not covering Ross's labour costs (£1800 pa minimum), we should schedule a special meeting dedicated to funding issues. Dave will take up need for more permanent funding with Robb and Councillor Paul Birch.

8. Wildlife garden: Sue presented a detailed plan, an outline schedule and costing for this area (attached) The stumpery, Devon bank and wildlife corridor have already been completed and clearing begun. Funding has been much reduced for the project and more practical/volunteer help will be required. Work should be complete by spring 2024. The committee thanked Sue and Ernesto for all their hard work on this project and Ernesto and the Totnes Trust for their generous funding contributions.

Next meeting: 3rd October in the Garden or Re-Economy Centre as appropriate.