

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
7th June 2022 in the REconomy Centre

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

1. APOLOGIES: Roma Church, David Martin, Shirley Prendergast

All hoped that Shirley would recover swiftly from her accident

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES: the minutes of the last meeting, on 3rd May 2022, were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Sue noted that Helen Sands' short version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" which was cancelled on 12th May will now be held on Friday 17th June.

Dave reported that Guy Metcalfe had fixed the problems with the solar-powered watering system that now seems to be working properly.

4. MEETING WITH SHDC ON 30TH MAY

At LGA's request, Sue, Dave and Robert met with Rob Sekula and 2 of his staff at Follaton House on 30th May to clarify LGA/SHDC relationship and responsibilities. LGA asked Rob to draft a written agreement on responsibilities, to take action on outstanding work in Leechwell Garden (list provided) and to inform LGA when repairs identified by LGA had been inspected by SHDC and a decision made on action required, if any. LGA also briefly outlined the multi-faceted and professional-level work carried out by LGA/DOS over 20 years which have contributed to the success of Leechwell Garden.

5. PROJECTS

Noticeboard:

Sue, Shirley and Dave are working on this. The idea is to produce a noticeboard showing the layout of the garden, with text explaining its history, 'rules' and features. As well as being displayed in the garden it will also be made into a leaflet (like Sue's Totnes Garden Trail leaflet)

Action SH/SP/DM to have another meeting and liaise with SHDC Graphics Dept.
(Note: cost to be included in ParkLife's funding application, see below)

Dave is slowly updating the Adobe Illustrator plan of the garden (originally produced by Charlotte Rathbone in 2010 and updated by Jim Carfrae in 2019. As well as adding new features (the sandpit and lower fence for example) many of the trees it shows no longer exist and quite a few have been added.

New Picnic Table and Seating:

Paul is working with Carpenter Oak on this. He has suggested some changes to their design which they have agreed to work on.

Action SH to circulate ParkLife's quote due w/c13 June

Wildlife Garden:

Keith (and Holly) at Park Life have agreed to work on this. They will be seeking funding for the work (planting etc.)

Action Paul to progress

Website and Donation Button:

Dave has set up a PayPal not-for-profit business account with PayPal and obtained a 'donate button' which is now displayed at the top of the LGA website (and linked to by the Instagram and Facebook LGA accounts. He has also simplified the welcome page. Removing redundant and old material.

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
7th June 2022 in the REconomy Centre

Action When Paul returns from holiday at the end of July Dave will transfer the management of the PayPal account to him.

Other:

David Martin has obtained a replacement donations box (cost £50) which is now much more securely fixed to the garden wall.

6. GARDEN PARTY

Sue has arranged for four sculptors to install exhibits in the garden in time for the party which will take place on 18th and 19th August. Liz Warnes and Pam Scott have agreed to set up stalls, Shirley hopes to have a book stall, Helen Sands will be doing some storytelling and there should be Tai Chi.

Action SH/Lu need additional support; Events Licence to be applied for; budget required and posters designed. Sue to meet with all sculptors next week to map out installations.

7. AOB

Paul reported that the Bay Horse Quiz last month raised £217 for the LGA and that so far £60 have been raised by plant donations. A friend of Shirley's has donated a large quantity of plants.

Sue is hoping that her letter to the Totnes Times and the page in the Totnes Directory will lead to some volunteers turning up for the Thursday gardening sessions – at present she has been doing garden maintenance on her own.

Following the theft of the donation box the question of locking Suzie's Gate was raised (since that was how the thieves escaped. Paul said that if it had been closed they'd merely have climbed over the wall and that the Heath Way residents didn't want the added task of locking another gate.

He also mentioned that he's found one person sleeping in the garden overnight (Sue had seen one too).

8. NEXT MEETING: will be on Tuesday July 5th starting at 5:30pm. It will be held in the garden, weather permitting, or at the REconomy Centre (Dave has already booked the room).