

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 8th August 2018 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Frances Gillmore, David Martin, Shirley Prendergast

1. APOLOGIES: Lu Overy, Keith Rennells, Pete Taylor, Jeannette Willington

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 4th July 2018 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

none not covered below.

4. RHS INSURANCE

There were problems with the direct debit mandate, but these have now been resolved so we are now insured. Our membership number is 29419929) and we should receive more information soon.

5. Seating Problems

Dave has contacted Mike Gardner about the collapse seat and he has promised to come round to fix it in the near future. Dave also mentioned the decayed nature of the 'chess board' seat. One of the Scott Woyka seats need repairing too – David Martin has agreed to contact Scott about this. The Logie seat that was removed by SHDC is currently at the SHDC Maintenance Depot. It's not clear if it can be repaired. Shirley's view is that given the income from the sale of books etc. we should be able to buy a replacement before the end of the year.

6. SHDC UPDATE

Keith sent the following note:

In terms of SHDC update, I think we are going to struggle to get the stone path resurfaced at the moment. I got an email from the building services manager, who is reluctant to lay a new top dust layer as he thinks it won't bind with the coarse layer beneath, and will wash off with the rain.

However, although he is right, that's not what we were proposing. We also identified that potential problem, so had suggested that they would need to agitate the coarse layer in order to create a rough surface on which to lay and roll the top dressing. And this included replacing rotten edging boards.

I will need to speak to Alex Whish and Rob Sekula, as they may be able to give the go ahead for the bigger job that is needed. I won't give up just yet!

In terms of the woodchip path, there is no reason that it shouldn't have been topped up by now. I will send a reminder email today requesting that they do so immediately.

It's a constant battle, of course.

7. SUSIE'S GATE

Dave had drafted an appeal notice – various improvements were suggested and Dave will circulate the new version shortly. Until the new bank account ("Leechwell Garden Susie's Gate Fund") is set up we can't publicise the appeal but Dave has already contacted Totnes Town Council (via the Mayor, Judy Westacott), the three Totnes SHDC councillors (Messrs Birch, Green and Vint) and Jaqui Hodgson our Devon County Councillor. So far:

Judy Westacott says this year's council grants have all been allocated

John Birch is away until mid-August

John Green has used up most of his discretionary funds but he may be able to give us something by the end of the year

Dave has also spoken to Steve Peacock of the Totnes Times who is happy to publish the appeal.

8. GARDEN NEWS

There have been two successful Monday sessions clearing round the birch trees. David had painted the shed and the walls down by Heathway. The willow branches left over after pollarding have also been cleared away.

AOB:

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Shirley reports that she paid £101 into the LGA Account this month from sales of plants and books from the stall outside her house.

David pointed out that SHDC have not yet strimmed the grassy bank to clear the hogweed. Dave agreed to ask Keith to chase SHDC.

Action: Dave to contact Keith (**DONE**)

Following the meeting David pointed out that the main gates could no longer be properly closed or locked – one of them has tilted enough so the two gates hit each other. For the moment a chain has to be used to lock the gates. Dave has written to John Churchill to see if he can suggest how things can be fixed and John has agreed to visit. Shirley has contacted EarthWrights and will be picking up a (free) supply of elastic for the sandpit cover. Mike Gardner has now fixed the seat and will try to fix the chessboard seat.

NEXT MEETING: The next Committee meeting will be on **Wednesday 5th September 2018** at the REconomy Centre, Leechwell Street, starting at 6pm.

Action: Dave to reserve room (**DONE**)