

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2013 at Totnes Fire Station.

1. Present; Roma Church (chair); Jim Carfrae; David Mitchell; Ed Vidler; David Martin; Liz Warnes; Shirley Prendergast; Susan Taylor, Paul Church

Apologies: Robert Vint; Catherine Munro; Susie Boyd; Keith Rennells,

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: Confirmed as accurate.

3. Matters Arising

Most of the signs at the entrances to the garden have been replaced - one remains to be installed. The chemical spraying of the Knotweed in the Pool Area appears to have been very effective.

4. TDT - role and responsibilities - Paul Church

Paul, the chair of the Totnes Development Trust (TDT) had been invited to the meeting to explain TDT's role, particularly with respect to the LGA. He explained that TDT was discussing with the Totnes Preservation Trust (and also the Public Space Forum in terms of their projects portfolio) the possibility of a merger (into the "Totnes Trust"), since these organisations have similar goals. The TDT (both current and with extended mandate following possible merger with TDPT) would be the natural choice for formal take over of responsibility for a number of open spaces with an operating license from SHDC - e.g. the Leechwell Garden, Heath's Garden, the Lamb, the forthcoming Shady Garden, Rotherfold etc. TDT already looks after things like public liability and asset insurance for spaces under its responsibility. As far as the Leechwell Garden was concerned the LGA would continue as now, dealing with things like planting, weeding, designing and managing the pool area, purchasing and/or commissioning new seating etc.

There was some discussion as to how the other gardens would be run - Paul said TDT saw the LGA as an exemplar of the sort of organisation and set up he would hope would be put in place to 'operate' the other gardens.

In response to a question from Shirley about what was meant by the Pool Project being 'led' by TDT, Paul said that 'led' is the wrong word - the Pool Project is 'led' by the Pool Group within the LGA, but TDT is the accountable body for the Garden vis-à-vis formal relationships/contracts/licensing etc. with local government authorities. This will need to be detailed more precisely in due course. He and Ed pointed out that fund-raising was one additional function/service that TDT could (indeed did) perform for the LGA.

5. Celebrate Our Space and other funding opportunities

Following Paul's talk, Ed reminded the meeting that he had circulated a document from Community Spaces about possible grants (up to £2000) that were available to organisations that had received a grant from CS. The grant application had to be submitted by the end of September and spent by the end of December. The money was intended to support the delivery of Community Events and Activities (such as picnics, health walks, volunteer recruitment sessions etc). The idea of holding an autumn event (to celebrate end of the garden's 3rd year) was discussed. Ed agreed to re-circulate the information and asked for ideas within the next week or so.

Action: Ed and all

6. Events Timetable

In Catherine's absence this item was skipped.

7. Volunteers/Activities

Roma said that the 'honesty box' for plant sales had raised £197. Shirley had raised £120 from her two guided walks (and planned to do two more). Liz had received a donation of £25 and mentioned that she and Susan had visited the Kingsbridge Community Garden where they have a permanent donation box built into the wall which was very successful in raising funds. It was agreed that SHDC would be asked if such a box could be fixed to the wall near the main entrance.

Susan wondered if Keith could be asked to make the occasion garden visit (say twice a year) to meet with volunteers to discuss things that need doing (for example David Martin would like information about what to do with the compost that was being collected). Roma agreed to email Keith. **Action: Roma**

8. Pool Report

Dave and Jim had met with Keith Miller (Inspector of Ancient Monuments for English Heritage) to discuss the pool project. Shirley was planning to discuss this at some length at the Pool Project meeting next week and didn't want to go into it today due to shortage of time. She mentioned the effectiveness of the spraying of the knotweed but said that it would need to be treated again in the autumn and might take much longer to clear up sufficiently for work to be done on the pool.

Ed reminded the meeting of the £1500 grant from Paula Black of DCC which she had given to be spent in the pool area. He thought we should spend it sooner rather than later and it was suggested that if we couldn't spend it directly on repairing pool we could use it to purchase seat(s) for the pool area.

9. AOB

Shirley suggested that we could get aprons screen-printed with a Leechwell Garden design - as well as volunteers wearing them, we could sell them at events. Cards with photographs of the garden could be sold to raise funds too.

Paul mentioned that following the suggestion of Totnes Pride 2013 using the garden there had been some discussion between SHDC and TDT about limits on the numbers at events held in the garden (because of the public liability insurance implications). It was decided that events involving more than about 150 people at any one time were not acceptable.

NEXT MEETING: 6pm, Wednesday 17th July 2013, Totnes Fire Station (Pool Project Meeting)
6pm, Wednesday 11th September 2013, Totnes Fire Station (LGA Committee)