

# LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at Totnes Fire Station.

**1. Present:** Ed. Vidler[chair]; Robert Vint; Janet Mitchell; Stephanie Parker; Roma Church; Liz Warnes; Lorette Logie ; David Mitchell.

**2. Apologies from:** Jim Carfrae; Sue Holmes; Jill Tomalin; Alan Gorman, Alex Whish

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting:** The date was amended (item 4) from July to June. The minutes were then signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising that were not covered by the Agenda.

## 4. Reports

**Pool design.** A report had been circulated by JT. It was agreed that this was a very clear summary and there had been no point in a meeting of the subcommittee prior to this meeting. The pool subcommittee were congratulated on a successful and well run Open Consultation.

**Herb Garden.** DM confirmed that Jeanette's plan is with Alex Wish for laminating. It will then be affixed to 'lectern'. EV to pursue provision of lectern. On the whole the plants are thriving and are a testament to JW's planning, planting and care.

**Volunteers.** RC reported that numbers were good and everyone very keen. However there is a shortage of tools etc. EV. stated no reason to delay ordering of tools. List of proposed order to be recirculated for possible amendment in the light of experience. DM and JM offered temporary storage of such items until shed arrives. EV. to pursue delivery of shed with Ross Kennerley. It was suggested that there should be some co-ordination of volunteer groups in both gardens.

RC. said she would like to alter timing of regular Tuesday session to 6pm at request of those attending. This was agreed and DM will alter on website. These sessions to be jointly organised by RC and LW.

**Planting,** it was reported that 3 trees had died. [Sorbus; Acer and Magnolia] Clarification of the long term plans for the bank along Leechwell Lane was requested as it looks very scruffy at present.

## Events

Tai Chi had been cancelled due to weather but Mark, organiser seems happy about the way it is going.

No report from Muddy Mums activities.

Everyone felt that the harp concert had been a successful and enjoyable event.

No future events currently planned. Later in meeting there was discussion about an event to celebrate the installation of Rosie Musgrove's sculpture. JM will ascertain PRP's availability for an 'unveiling'.

EV reported that he had discovered a possibility of Barclays Bank matching any fund raising event. Committee urged to put forward any ideas as finance is needed to maintain garden in the future.

## 5. Sustainability grant.

RC to review 'shopping list' as reported above and to mark items urgently required and we should aim to secure those before next volunteers meeting JC. Committee queried

value of compost bins as very limited use for compost. Generally felt a better option if S.Hams could remove all rubbish from site. Currently lots of brambles and woody waste in pool area. EV to contact AW re this.

**6. Advisory committee.** There have been some incidents in the garden which have been difficult for the residents to resolve/deal with. Some of these have involved children on scooters using slopes as race tracks; fathers teaching children to ride bikes; adults on play structure; rowdy behaviour and drinking. The residents dislike being branded as the 'bad guys' and being on the receiving end of abuse. In one incident [of drinking] the community police were called. Having dealt with the problem the officer reportedly said to the resident words to the effect ...'couldn't you have dealt with this?.....I hope you're not going to make a habit of calling us out for this sort of thing. You wanted the gates locked.{the incident was around 8.30pm.}This is the first time police have been involved. Residents have been criticised in the past for trying to deal with rowdy behaviour and urged to call the police. JC to contact the council to remind the CPO of their agreement and role. Committee endorsed that the correct action is to contact the police.

**7. Funding.** The committee was reminded that the sustainability grant is a one off and there is a need to fund raise to maintain the garden. It was agreed that any sponsorship which could be procured would help. We would prefer that this should support and be in keeping with the ethos of the garden. Various ideas were put forward. EV to summarise needs and ideas for the committee.

**8. Public Art.** JM reported she will contact Rosie Musgrove with a view to visiting to monitor progress as per the conditions of Community Spaces funding. She will ascertain completion date in order that planning of 'unveiling' event can commence. PRP had offered to be present and also mooted idea of designing a 'water spout' for the pool. His drawings might be used as a fund raising aid for this project.

JM also reported the uncertainty of the destination for the 'section 106' money intended for public art in the town. RV stated that 'section 106' expenditure must meet the specified criteria. RK to be asked to meet with the interested parties to resolve this issue. ( subsequent to meeting date agreed)

**9. Any other business.**

The transfer of the land and completion of the contract was raised. S.Hams to be urged again to finalise this as local difficulties are now resolved.

**NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 9TH AT THE FIRE STATION.**