

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday 12th November 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Roma Church, Jeannette Willington, Sue Holmes, Lu Overy, Frances Gilmore, Shirley Prendergast, David Martin, Philip Strange

1. APOLOGIES: Keith Rennells, Pete Taylor

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 9th October were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Dave noted that the curious email sent to various committee members apparently from him (though actually from 'executivecommittee252@gmail.com') was almost certainly the result of someone 'harvesting' the email addresses of committee members from the LGA website. Though apparently a harmless joke, Philip reminded everyone of the dangers of clicking on links in such false emails.

4. PATH RENEWAL PROJECT

David and Keith reported that there had been 6 tenders for the work and that a meeting of Rob Sekula, David and Keith had whittled the list down to two (with a third applicant possibly still in the running). Rob wants some more information for the applicants (Aggregate Industries in Newton Abbot and a firm from Gloucester) before a decision is made – probably next week. The applicants all confirm they can start the work soon (hopefully soon after the target date of 18th November) and finish well within budget before Christmas.

5. GARDENING MATTERS

Keith reported that the new meadow grasses are greening up already in the pool garden. It's been warm and wet, so ideal conditions for getting established. The wildflowers in the mix will benefit from a cold snap this winter, hopefully germinating and popping up early next spring.

Wendy Reid had noted that the Ginko was being overshadowed and stunted by the high hedge along the boundary of the garden. Both Lu and Shirley noted that the SHDC ops team's annual schedule included trimming the hedge but this year that had not been done. It was agreed that Keith should remind SHDC to do the work.

Action: Keith to contact SHDC

The willow structure needs maintenance and it was agreed that Park School (which has several such structures) should be asked for advice.

Action: Roma to contact Park School

6. WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN

Philip reported that the bee house had been badly vandalised with most of the tubes taken out and dropped on the ground. It was agreed we should create a replacement (in the spring to be placed out of easy reach). Philip agreed to attempt to rescue any of the tubes that might contain hibernating bees or bee pupae.

7. POOL AREA FENCING

Keith reported that he and Andrew had started the fencing project, adding the new gate in and have some of the fence posts and rails. They will complete the work next week.

Shirley noted that we need confirmation from Alex Whish that the fence is properly child-proof and safe.

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Postscript: Keith has confirmed that Alex is happy with the fence and combination of the black netting and a planted row of hawthorn etc. in front will ensure that the fence is not climbable

Keith and Andrew had to make an emergency repair to the fence on the lower side of the pool as some young children were climbing over, this is because the SHDC guys had cleared the hedge in front in order to alleviate the floodwater last week.

7. POOL AREA ARCHAEOLOGY

Phil McMahon had been in touch with Shirley but the apparent offer of (free) help mentioned at the Bay Horse meeting no longer seems to be on offer. Phil did suggest that Shirley should contact Steve Reed (Devon County Archaeological Adviser for the South Hams area) to discuss setting up a community dig project to locate if possible the original leat which supplied the pool. It was agreed that any such project would need to involve relatively few people (KEVICC students?) to avoid any possibility of knotweed contamination.

9. FINANCES

Keith reported that SHDC would be transferring £1500 to pay him and Andrew for the work they were doing in the Pool Area (see above). Jeannette expressed some uncertainty about the funding for projects given the various sources and recipients of LGA funds. After some discussion it was agreed that having electronic access to the LGA accounts at Lloyds would help us and Jeannette agreed to contact Lloyds to arrange this.

10. AOB

Both Sue and Philip need keys to the gates and shed and it was agreed to remind Keith to get some from SHDC.

Action: Keith to contact SHDC

NEXT MEETING: Given that Tuesday 10th December is an evening market and the REconomy Centre is already booked for 11th December, Dave agreed to host the meeting at **Leechwell Cottage on Wednesday 11th December at 6pm** (with suitable Christmas refreshments). Partners welcome!