

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 18th February 2019 6pm at Leechwell Cottage

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Roma Church, David Martin, Lu Overy, Frances Gillmore, Jeannette Willington, Pete Taylor

1. APOLOGIES: Shirley Prendergast, Keith Rennells, Sue Holmes

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 21st January 2019 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None not dealt with below.

4. Path Repairs

Keith had submitted the Pocket Parks application. We are due to hear by the end of the month but Keith has warned that it was heavily oversubscribed. If we fail he suggests we apply for a Big Lottery for All grant (up to £10k). **Action:** Keith to keep us informed.

5. RHS Affiliation

Dave handed over the new 2019 discount card to Lu.

6. Cleaning the Herb Garden Paving

Roma reported that someone had slipped on the paving slabs in the herb garden. Dave volunteered to try his jet washer which has a rotary brush attachment which makes short work of cleaning patios. He thinks the solar pump should supply enough water and with an extension lead the washer can be plugged into one of the sockets in the Heath Way patios.

Action: Dave to progress

7. Repairs

Dave has cut a plank to fit behind the rickety herb garden bench and David Martin will fix in place. Roma has identified a suitable blackboard – though expensive (£150) it is tough and guaranteed for 5 years. Given the problems we have had with cheap ones, it was agreed that Roma should go ahead and buy one. **Action:** David and Roma to progress

8. Herb Garden Plans

The new planting scheme is still at the planning stage, but it was decided to set aside £1000 from our reserves to buy new plants. Jeannette pointed out that the existing notice was now out of date and should be removed. It was hoped that SHDC, who paid for it, would be prepared to provide a new one once the plan is complete and planting was underway. It was agreed that when we have the new blackboard we should put a note on it about the changes to the herb garden.

The new layout will require stepping stones to make life easy for the gardeners. It was suggested that a trip to Kenmart Salvage at Bovey Tracy might yield results.

9. Community Activities

Roma had checked with SHDC about what we would need to do to hold or allow events in the garden. Dave had got a quote for the necessary £5M public liability insurance we would need (roughly £90 p.a.). We would expect anyone organising events (e.g. Yoga classes) to make some sort of donation to the LGA to help pay for our insurance. It was agreed that we would take out insurance as soon as an event was planned.

10. Current Finances

While our finances were relatively healthy, it was agreed we should look for money-raising opportunities. Lu has put us down for the Bay Horse pub quiz (early next year) and it was suggested selling cards and 2020 calendars later in the year (with photos of the garden) were ideas worth pursuing. **Action:** all to collect suitable photos

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11. Sand Pit Cleaning

Shirley reported that the sand pit group had lost their way, but expected they would have more energy when the weather improves.

The cover is sometimes not in place when the gates are closed – it was agreed people should be reminded with a suitable note of the new blackboard.

12. Tree Mapping and Planting

Shirley suggested we should produce an updated map of the trees in the garden. This would help us decide where new ones should go. Keith has arranged with SHDC to supply two trees – a curly hazel and either a liquidambar or an American sweet gum. Lu and David wondered if the 3 willows near their houses should be pollarded or even removed (they are crowding the silver birch).

Action: Dave to produce an A3 map

Lu/David to discuss with Keith

Keith is liaising with Alex Whish about the removal of the willow stump near the sand pit.

13. AOB:

The Olive tree in the herb garden needs pruning – Roma agreed to ask Stuart (the Heath Way gardener) about it. David and Lu noted that the bouncy belt on the play structure was collecting water again and David agreed to unblock the holes EarthWrights had made (or make new ones if necessary).

Action: David to progress

NEXT MEETING: The next Committee meeting will be on **Monday 18th** March at the REconomy Centre.

Action: Dave to book the room (**done**)