

## MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

21.05.24

Re-Economy Centre

**PRESENT:** David Mitchell (Chair), David Martin, Robert Vint, Rory Batt, Belinda Jane Batt, Lu Ovary, Shirley Prendergast (Sec) Claire Morely (invited) Sue Holmes (reporting back on Woodland Garden)

Apologies: Paul Church

Dave and members welcomed Claire and were delighted to hear that she will be joining the LGA Committee.

### UPDATE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

1. **The sandpit has been refilled** although level is still so low that it needs a further boost- which has been promised by Paul Chambers (SHDC)
2. **Permanent gardener to replace Ross- paid for by LGA:** Stewart Moir proposed. He is an experienced gardener and arborist, has done previous work in the garden and is able to dispose of garden waste. He charges £24 per hour and can offer 3hrs every three weeks, with some flexibility. This would be within our existing draft budget for the next two years. Committee agreed that Stewart be invited to take up the post.

### MINUTES:

3. **Repairs to pergola.** Dave, and David plan to make temporary but sturdy repairs to rotting cross beams. Carpenter Oak have supplied bolts and Rory has offered the oak needed for the blocks. Carpenter Oak advise that the pergola may have to be dismantled and rebuilt sometime within the next few years. Many thanks to Dave and David for undertaking this considerable task.
4. **Community Grant Application, Town Council.** Thanks to Dave, Robert and Rory who submitted a Community Fund grant application to cover transitional gardening costs for the next two years. Rory consulted with Councillors Louisa Auletta, Tim Bennett, Anna Presswell. (others ?) Results due 10.6.24.
5. **Woodland Garden (WG)** Ernesto is recovering from a serious illness and although now (happily) recovered he will not be working with Sue on the WG as planned. The Committee sent all best wishes to Ernesto and very much look forward to his safe return.
6. Sue noted that work on WG will begin 22.5.24 and requested confirmation of £600 from LGA funds to cover additional costs of employing ParkLife to

do the extra work (max 3 days X 3 people) and of buying shredded bark. Volunteers have also been contacted which may help reduce costs. It was agreed that £600 be made available.

- 7. Get together event for new volunteers- 12<sup>th</sup> June 5.30 at Leechwell Cottage.** Dave will supply refreshments. Estimated that there may be at least 24 people attending (including the Committee). Children welcome. Belinda to draft invitation and Rory will post the event on SM – asking that people contact Dave if interested. Suggested that we define roles/interests on the Committee in order to be able to answer any questions volunteers may have. *Each of us to circulate a few bullet points about ourselves to other committee members in the next week or so. Maybe we all- including visitors write our name and few words on sticker to wear for meeting?*
- 8. Celebration and Fundraising Event in the Garden- 20<sup>th</sup> July** - just before school holidays begin. Sue will contact Robin to check that this date is convenient for him. Belinda and Rory suggested that we do a combined event to cover: *1) Completion of the WG. 2) Completion and installation of Robin Lacey's pool sculpture and 3) Announcement of Dave, David, Lu and Shirley leaving LGA Committee in December)*
- 9.** There will be plenty of media and fundraising opportunities for the event- Belinda and Rory will advise. Some discussion about inviting a celeb to open the event- Poppy Okotcha, Frances Tophill (now lives in area, presenter on Gardener's World/gardener at Sharpham- I think?) and George Monbiot suggested?
- 10. Update Finances.** Paul (Treasurer) unable to attend this month. Agreed that we get a clear and up to date picture of our finances and results of fundraising activity for next LGA Committee meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June (New Volunteers)** 5.30 Leechwell Cottage

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June (LGA Committee )**- debrief and plan Celebration Event in July).`5.30 Re-Economy Centre

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July (Celebration Event)** in the Garden (details to be decided)

