

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 22nd November 2017 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Frances Gillmore, David Martin, Jeannette Willington, Shirley Prendergast, Marsha Cummings, Keith Rennells, Marisia Willoughby, Pete Taylor

1. APOLOGIES: Lu Overy, Jim Carfrae

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 18th October 2017 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

Keith had discussed possible dates for an informal meeting of the committee with Richard Ellingham of SHDC. Although Richard **probably** cannot make it, we agreed a meeting with his deputy, Charlie **Storer**, at 1.30pm on Wednesday 6th December. The issue of the two replacement trees (replacing those mistakenly chopped by SHDC) is currently in the hands of Lorette Logie and Liz Warnes – SHDC have agreed to pay the cost.

4. GARDEN SIGNS

Keith had obtained from SHDC “Age Appropriate” signs for the Play Structure as well as a replacement for the sandpit sign that was damaged a couple of weeks ago. David Martin agreed to fix them in place.

Action: David to fix signs.

5. THE THIRD GATE:

Dave had produced a mock-up of a third gate (see attached) based on the designs of the two current gates. Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that:

- the new gate should be positioned where the current (ugly and unsuitable) gate is
- a design consisting of two fixed side pieces with the gate in the middle was preferable
- the piece bearing the words “SUSIE’S GATE” should be positioned over the top of the gate rather than on the gate itself (this would also strengthen a gate with side pieces).

Pete said that his son Ben had suggested a Celtic Knot design rather than the mock-up Dave had produced. Rather than producing designs ourselves it was agreed that Dave should contact John Churchill (creator of the existing two gates) and Spencer Field Larcombe (another local blacksmith) and ask them to come up with designs and cost estimates.

It was also agreed that once we had an idea of the likely cost we should decide how much the LGA should contribute and how we might get the local community to contribute (see AOB).

Keith noted that Alex Whish had wondered about the ownership of the path (and existing gate) which might belong to the Heath Way Management Committee rather than SHDC. David Martin agreed to talk to Jeremy Logie and investigate the matter.

Action: Dave to contact the blacksmiths
David to talk to Jeremy Logie.

AOB:

Shirley noted that the irises she had planted in the lower circular pool had grown out of hand. It was agreed that she and Douglas Aitken (gardener for Heath Way) would do the necessary trimming.

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Keith noted that the pool area was looking very untidy and unkempt. He suggested that it would be a good idea to trim and lay the hedge in the spring and perhaps do some weeding and clearing of the land inside the hedge (keeping well away from the pool and Japanese Knotweed). He offered to run a hedge-laying workshop for 4-6 volunteers by March 2018. **It was agreed that because of the Knotweed infestation work on pool itself was likely to suffer a lengthy delay. As a result, we agreed to transfer just £1000 from our main account (which stands at £6133) into the pool fund and set aside £1000 as a starter for the new gate.**

NEXT MEETING: The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 17th January 2018 at the REconomy building, starting at 6pm.

Action: Dave to reserve room (**DONE**)

