

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 23rd July 2014 6pm in the Leechwell Garden

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair); Shirley Prendergast; Elizabeth Warnes; David Martin; Jim Carfrae; Marsha Cummings

1. APOLOGIES: Louise Overy; Jeanette Willington; Ed Vidler; Keith Rennels.

2. MINUTES: the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd July 2014 were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

It had been agreed that Kate Wilson would be asked whether KEVICC could provide any volunteers but no one has yet asked her. There is a TOTSOC meeting next week and Dave or Jim will ask here then. Shirley will e-mail a contact of hers who has expressed an interest in volunteering and maybe being on the Committee.

Action: Dave, Jim, Shirley

With regard to watering, Dave Mitchell has arranged via his own water supply for water to the herb garden to be available on demand. Dave needs to be contacted by telephone and will arrange to turn on the water to the hose in the garden. We need to get a couple of hosesock connectors. The hose can stretch to the herb garden area (or at least a part of it).

Dave Mitchell has contacted South West Water but has been passed around to different people there so there is no direct contact name. Sources For Searches have been contacted and they say we need to log on to the SWIMM application. South Hams have the ability to connect to SWIMM.

Shirley thinks the connection for water to the garden may be on the other side of Heath Way. The bungalow which occupied the site had a supply but we don't know where the source is. South West Water say they could reconnect but we do not know how much it would cost once the source of the supply is found.

As regards plans for the Leechwell, we need to know who owns the well and to check the deeds. The person who owns the land above the well, Hester Pelley, is happy for the work to the Well to go ahead but if it turns out to be on her property, she may want to be more involved.

We now have the Schedule of Works from Oliver Bosence which looks good. We will finalise the signage for the Well in the next week or two and will then be able to complete the application for Scheduled Monument Consent. We could ask Oliver to do the application for the pool as well when the time comes.

With regard to the removal of the bag of gravel which remains in the garden, all the bags that were filled from the large bag have been taken by members of the public. If more from the large bag can be bagged up into smaller bags, we may be able to get rid of all of it. Liz and Dave Martin said they would do some bagging up.

Action: Liz, David

With regard to the Eucalypt, Dave Martin has phoned Mark at EarthWrights who said he would try to come and have a look at the tree. He thought it might be possible to plane off the surface to remove the rot and that the trunk should last several years if this was done. Shirley said that the man from South Hams says that the rot is coming from inside the trunk. Some areas of rot have been trimmed off.

4. SHDC UPDATE:

Dave Mitchell read from Keith's letter (attached). There is no feedback on other watering schemes. £250 has been transferred to our account. The five-year period for insurance is thought to end in November but Shirley says we need to make sure. With regard to the gravel, Keith wants clarification of what we want. The committee gave a vote of thanks to Keith for the £250 grant - 'Most helpful and will go to pay for help with the heavier tasks on the garden, much appreciated.'

5. WATER SUPPLY IN THE GARDEN:

See Matters Arising above.

6. NEW SIGNS:

The existing sign says everything but the lettering is small. We need to have a separate sign that says in larger and more noticeable letters "No cycles, no dogs, no alcohol, no fires, no ball games". We would like South Hams to re-do the existing sign and remove the prohibition symbols. The Leechwell Garden Association's name should be on both. The telephone number for South Hams should be retained as the point of contact.

Dave Martin volunteered to prepare the wording and will incorporate onto the prohibition sign the words "In the interests of public hygiene and safety....." and South Hams will do the layout. Dave Mitchell will e-mail Keith.

Action: Dave, David

7. RELATIONSHIP WITH TDT, INSURANCE

We need to check that the present arrangements run out in November and if they do, we should cancel the insurance. Dave Mitchell has spoken to Ed and he is happy for the Association to separate from TDT. If we need to re-associate with a charitable organisation for the purpose of fund-raising, this could be dealt with at the time. A discussion was had about whether we have to audit our own funds but it was thought not. We need to keep accounts and make them available. We could arrange for an accountant to audit them, perhaps on a voluntary basis as this is done for other organisations. Someone needs to be able to present the accounts to the AGM. Ed is still the overall Treasurer although Jeanette looks after the imprest account.

Dave Mitchell will write to Ed telling him that having discussed the matter we wish to separate ourselves financially from TDT who have been our accountable body for lottery funding purposes.

We are still able to raise money from events like the summer fete. There will always need to be some level of fundraising but if we do not have to pay an audit fee and insurance we would save in excess of £1000 pa which could be used for other purposes.

Dave Mitchell suggested that we might have a "Friends of the Leechwell Garden" scheme or that people could be asked to leave a donation to the garden in their wills.

Dave Mitchell will write to Ed when the need for insurance has ended, thanking Ed for his input.

Action: Dave

8. AGM PLANNING

The AGM must be held in 2014. If the insurance lapses in November it might be a good time to hold the AGM. Previous discussions have been had about making the AGM attractive to potential volunteers but it was thought that it might be better, if the Pennant Scheme yields some publicity, to have something in the newspaper about the need for volunteers at the same time. We could also maybe have discussions with other gardening groups.

9. AOB

Shirley mentioned the possibility of using a solar pump as a means of getting water to the garden. It would have to be put on a hut with a solar panel and link up to a pipe where the stream leaves the pool. It might be a way of using our own water. Dave Mitchell will check with South West Water.

The dry stone wall at the North west end of the garden has fallen down and the slope is crumbling. The loose stones were retrieved and replaced near the wall after the meeting ended for safety's sake.

There is a meeting about the Well on Tuesday next week at Shirley's at 6pm and one on Thursday 24th to look at the Guildhall signage.

Some members are meeting in the garden on Monday the 28th to look at the herb garden planting to see if it might be more advisable to replant some of this with less water-dependant plants.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Association is on Wednesday 20th August at 6pm in the garden if it is fine, if not, in the Fire Station.

EMAIL from Keith Rennells:

In terms of updates from SHDC this month:

- Watering – I have no feedback to give on other schemes at present but will be interested to know if other LGA members have any practical ideas for collecting/utilising water on site
- Financial contribution – a sum of £250 has been transferred from SHDC to TDT now to help towards some of the costs of the garden works. Apologies it isn't more, but we continue to look at opportunities to direct funds towards Leechwell.
- I note your minuted comments about withdrawing from insurance liabilities with regards structures in the garden. Of course, LGA/TDT cannot do so whilst there is a contractual obligation with the lottery to maintain insurance, a condition of the grant. But I'm guessing you know this.....apologies....
- Gravel – please clarify what it is you are asking SHDC to do with it – if it is too heavy for yourselves to lift, will it also be too heavy for us to lift? Is there anywhere else on site it could be utilised, like the steps to the third access point?
- New sign – would welcome your feedback on a new sign, which we can obviously design/produce at SHDC. Note emphasis on no dogs/ball games. Could someone mock up what the group would want to communicate to the public, so we can get the right balance/emphasis?

Sorry I cannot join you.

Regards

Keith