

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 4^h March 2015 6pm at Totnes Firestation

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair); Louise Overy; Jeannette Craig Willington; Jim Carfrae; Marsha Cummings

1. APOLOGIES: David Martin; Susie Boyd; Ed Vidler; Keith Rennels, Shirley Prendergast, Catherine Munroe

2. MINUTES: the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 12th November 2014 were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None.

4. Sue Holmes email (see attached)

The committee thanked Sue for her offer of forget-me-nots and hoped her meeting with Monty Don went well.

5. Watering the garden:

Dave Mitchell had nothing further to report. He has sent three e-mails to Dan Bayley but has received no reply. Dave will telephone to see if he can get a response. Jim Carfrae knows someone who works for Becouk and will contact them.

6. Gardening for Health:

The Committee noted Catherine's recent e-mail and agreed that LGA will collaborate with Gardening for Health as mentioned in her e-mail.

7. SHDC Update:

Dave has received a brief note from Keith Rennels who is reasonably optimistic that the knotweed is in decline. The new signage for the garden has not yet been received and Dave will contact Keith again about these.

8. Spring Event

It is agreed that the date for the Event will be the 17th May. A meeting was held informally to talk about the event recently and Louise will send round details of what needs to be done so people can choose what they want to do in terms of manning stalls. There will be a plant stall, jumble, tombola, books, possibly music from a harpist, a craft tent and a stall for making bee houses/paint a pot/leaf printmaking. Shirley will make inquiries of the people who ran the fair at Littlehempston. There was some discussion of buying another gazebo, but it was decided three should be sufficient – if the weather is bad then few people would attend anyway.

AOB

A question arose as to possible early locking of the gates in the garden. Lu will make inquiries of the keyholders.

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The existing play structure was discussed. Dave reminded the Committee that we should all check out the structure in Paignton by the pier. Jim said that this was more engineered than the one in the LGA garden but not unpleasant.

There was some uncertainty about how a replacement would be financed and whether SHDC would help (with grant applications for example). It was agreed that Dave would contact Keith about the issue. Once the existing tree is no longer useable the wood can be recycled and a charge made to people who want to buy pieces of wood. This could contribute to the cost of sawing/chopping.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Association is on Wednesday 1st April 2015 at the Fire Station.

Email from Sue Holmes

Just wanted to refer to a couple of things:

1. I have planted up about 20 pots of forget-me-nots which I can let you have for sale in the garden, (or to add to the garden itself) and will pot up later plants for the spring festival in May.
2. I notice in the Garden Meeting notes that you want to increase publicity. I am going to see Monty Don at Dartington in April, when he will be talking about crafts. I was going to ask about Gardeners' World doing a piece on art in the garden, which would link in with crafts, as I don't think they have ever covered that. Would it be ok for me to refer him to the film on Art in Leechwell Garden? I know it's a public space, but the same principles apply, and if he picks it up, it may mean more publicity for Leechwell.
3. Has there been any progress on the knotweed problem? I gave Jeannette an article about a new approach, and suggested SHDC got in touch to see if Leechwell could be part of the trials - or at least have more information.
4. What is the situation with the play structure?

And just for information, Donald Bishop is still with us, although very sleepy. When he was admitted to Lincombe Manor Care Home last July, it was thought it would only be a matter of weeks, if not days. Which goes to show the strength of the man! He has cancer of the bile duct, and refused treatment except for morphine. I hope to visit again shortly.

Hope to catch up with you soon

All best wishes

Sue