

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION MEETING

June 4th 2010 2.30pm, Leechwell Cottage.

PRESENT: Sue Holmes (Chair) Jeannette Willington, David Mitchell, Janet Mitchell, Robert Vint, Jim Carfrae, Wendy Reid, Anna Lunk, Shirley Prendergast (Sec). Thanks to Dave and Janet for venue and hospitality.

1. APOLOGIES: Ed Vidler, Alex Whish

2. MINUTES of LGA MEETING May 28th 2010: agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING (1) LGA minutes May 10th:

CS grant application- Sue stressed that the outcomes described in the application will need to be met, demonstrated as achieved and reported back to CS. The need to achieve and demonstrate these outcomes will shape the restructuring of the LGA. **SH**

Restructuring will include volunteer teams to cover all aspects of the garden, each led by committee member, keeping formal minutes and reporting back to the LGA. **SH**

BTCV Insurance still to be done **EV**

(2) LGA minutes May 28th:

Changes to Constitution (4.6) Par 6/7: to add 'retirement by rotation *one third of members each AGM, starting with the next AGM in 2011.* Par 10d: to replace 'by unanimous agreement' with *by consensus.*

4. AGM: Tuesday 29th June, Civic Hall, 6-7pm followed by garden visit

Notices sent (Jeannette). People becoming members will receive papers for AGM and be informed that they can stand for LGA Committee.

Poster (Jim) will emphasise AGM not garden visit. Only members of the LGA to vote or visit the garden.

Info about AGM to go on website (Dave)

Poster distribution (Wendy et al)

Stewards at AGM

5. REPORT ON PARTNERSHIP MEETING June 1st 2010.

Funding issues. SHDC reported that although they had brought Project 1 in under budget, recent unanticipated additional expenditure has resulted in a shortfall in funding to complete the garden.

This means that SHDC do not have funds to:

-replace the fence to the west of the garden (adjoining Leechwell Cottage) with one of the correct height;

-complete the bark linking path to lower Heath Way;

-continue with the process of getting Scheduled Monument Consent to repair the pool;

-fulfil their commitment to 5K seedcorn money towards a future Lottery Fund bid to restore the pool.

The LGA has written to Richard Gage to try to ascertain the full costs involved in getting SMC so that we may be able to access other sources of funding to enable Project 3 of the garden to go ahead. **SP**

Re-routing the lower bark path. As SHDC have no money left to do this, the LGA have suggested a partnership between LGA, BTCV and TTT to complete the path with volunteer help.

Handover. Noted that there will not be a formal 'handover' from SHDC to LGA as SHDC will retain overarching responsibility for the garden for the time being.

List of tasks outstanding from Project 1 of garden needed before we move into Project 2.

Insurance (to cover work in the garden before we get BTCV Insurance) anyone using the garden is covered if a member from SHDC is present.

Water supply. No more information available but old water pipes may be able to be located. **(DM)** Committee felt that WATER SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FROM THE STREAM to water the garden. Water levels can be very low and taking water on a scale needed to water trees would deplete the flow to Moorashes. Some other solution must be found.

Fence around the pool. As agreed with EH there will be a defined fenced-off exclusion zone around the pool, see map submitted by Ross, which will block all access to the pool once the garden is open to the public. This is both to protect the pool (for example from tampering with the bypass pipe) and to safeguard members of the public until the area is completed. We need to be sure the fence is adequate to these tasks.

Shirley is also concerned that the clay substructure of the pool may now be drying out which could damage its natural capacity to hold water. Pool was only intended to be empty a short while until fieldwork investigation was undertaken but has now been empty almost 3 months with no end date in sight. She will write to Alex and to Richard Gage asking that the pool be refilled. **SP**

6. DECISIONS IN PRINCIPLE.

Licence with SHDC: SHDC agreed that licence be with TDT (will include definition of ownership and responsibility for Pool as remaining with SHDC)

Maintenance: SWHighways have responsibility for maintaining garden, watering and replacing planting if necessary, until May 2011, so this aspect can be set aside for the moment.

Re-structuring: Garden volunteer teams are being set up (Jeannette is already working with a team to plan the herb garden) and will be set up to look after the garden, to include Activities (play, wildlife, educational, schools, visits) Public Art, Maintenance and Planting, Management and finances, Communication and PR., Website. Each to be chaired by member of LGA Committee, minuted and reported back to central LGA Committee. The LGA will specify terms of reference for how groups are to operate.

Advisory Committee of Residents. This will be composed of residents in the immediate vicinity of the garden- ie Heath Way West, Maudlin Rd, Leechwell Cottage and others who may wish to be involved ie Moorashes. Suggested that Heath Way residents be responsible for setting this up. Advisory Committee will report back to LGA.

Project 3: Completing the garden- the Pool area. Shirley said that completing the garden (Project 3) was the major outstanding task of the original brief of the LGA. No discussion had taken place with the committee about what is involved in or how and when Project 3 would be completed. She was committed to getting Scheduled Monument Consent and making a funding application to Heritage Lottery Fund but would not be Chairing this group. The SMC process, which is crucial to restoration of the pool, was finally underway (although now halted again due to lack of funds!).

Sue will contact a person she knows, highly experienced in managing community projects and with expertise in negotiating with English Heritage, who may be willing to Chair Project 3. **SH**

7. AOB. The Committee wanted to congratulate Alex Whish and Ross Kennerley of the Landscape and Leisure Team, SHDC, on bringing in Project 1 of the garden in under budget and to record their thanks for all the hard work and commitment of officers that this has entailed. **SH**

A copy of the Community Spaces 2010 Grant Application and a copy of Gill Dunne's March 2010 Garden Consultation will be lodged in the Totnes Public Library. **SP**

8. NEXT MEETING. June 22nd, 3.30pm Dave and Janet's house