

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 17th January 2018 6pm at the REconomy Centre

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

1. APOLOGIES: Marsha Cummings, Lu Overy, Keith Rennells

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 22nd November 2017 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None.

4. SUSIE'S GATE

Dave had contacted both Spencer Field Larcombe (in Australia at present but back within a month) and John Churchill, giving them a rough specification of what we wanted. Both had expressed a desire to submit a proposal and John Churchill had already produced a preliminary sketch. It was agreed that the nameplate should be readable from outside the garden, that the gate should be hinged on the side nearest the Heath Way house and should open inwards (like the existing gate).

The committee discussed John's design at some length. While it was interesting people were unhappy about some features – it was not seen as very feminine, the name plate was rather small, and some felt the shapes (particularly the three 'spikes' within the bottom lobe of the knot) were a bit threatening.

It was noted that while John's designs tended to use flat, shaped strips, Spencer's tended to use curved, round rods.

Pete agreed to contact Spencer since he (Spencer) knew both Pete and Susie.

As to funding, it was agreed we should look for possible grants (as well as public subscription) since the total cost will certainly exceed the £1000 earmarked from LGA funds.

Action: Dave to contact John.

Action: Pete to contact Spencer.

Action: Shirley to research grants.

4. WATER ON THE BOUNCY BELT

It was agreed that this was a safety hazard, since the water remains standing for days after it has stopped raining. It was agreed that Dave should ask Keith to contact EarthWrights.

Action: see note from Keith below

5. THE HEDGEHOG HUT

Nobody was quite sure who had put this in the garden, but it was agreed to leave it in place.

6. PROGRESS ON THE TASKS WE WANT SHDC TO CARRY OUT

Given Keith's useful summary after the meeting with Richard Ellingham and Charlie Storer of SHDC last month, it was agreed that the path refurbishment was urgent and Dave should ask Keith to contact SHDC about this.

Action: see note from Keith below

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7. REPLACEMENT TREES IN THE HEDGE

In Lu's absence nobody knew the status of this, so Dave agreed to contact Lu, Liz and Lorette.

Action: Dave to send email (**DONE**).

8. RHS Pennant Awards

Diana Cusack had asked the LGA if the Leechwell Garden would take part again. It was agreed that we would and Shirley agreed to work on the two-page write up.

Action: Dave to confirm to Diana

Action: Shirley to produce write-up

9. HERB GARDEN MAINTENANCE and PROPOSED TREE FOR THE WALL BORDER

Jeannette mentioned that Douglas Aitken would not be available for garden work after the end of February so she would ask him to do some work on digging out the irises in the pool and to plant the tree (a yellow 'Joseph Rock' rowan) which is due to be delivered to Lu.

Action: Jeannette to contact Doug

AOB:

Jeannette asked for the solar watering system to be checked in the near future and Dave agreed.

The issue of a money-raising event (plant sales) was raised and it was agreed that if possible this should coincide with the 'opening' of the new third gate. If for some reason that was delayed past early May it was agreed we would hold a Spring Event then anyway.

Pete Taylor was asked if he would join the committee and agreed.

Action: Dave to check watering system

Action: co-opt Pete Taylor (**DONE**)

NEXT MEETING: The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 21st February 2018 at the REconomy building, starting at 6pm.

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

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Note from Keith received on 18th January:

Hi Dave,

Belated apologies that I didn't come to the meeting last night; I had intended to, but was waylaid at the eleventh hour. Sorry about that.

A couple of quick updates. I will contact Earthwrights this week re drilling holes in the belt to relieve puddling, and also to get a renewal of some of the post saving sleeves at ground level on the timber uprights. I think the sleeves will come as part of our warranty, of course.

I will also get the final specification together for the path resurfacing for SHDC. I will pass it over and it's up to them then. I will request a top up of the bark chip at the same time.

I will prepare and circulate a proposal for the hedge laying around the pool area in due course.

Kind regards

Keith