

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 18th October 2017 6pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), Frances Gillmore, David Martin, Lu Overy, Shirley Prendergast

1. APOLOGIES: Marsha Cummings, Keith Rennells, Marisia Willoughby

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 13th September 2017 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None.

4. STATUS OF GARDEN TASKS

Keith had produced a summary of the current status (attached below). It was agreed that we should have an informal meeting with Richard Ellingham to discuss the outstanding issues, particularly the path renovation. It is clear that before the resurfacing is done much of the wooden edging (rotten in many places) will need to be replaced.

David and Lu agreed to do the pollarding of the willows (with Keith?). Dave agreed to write to Rob Sekula about replacing the two hedgerow trees mistakenly sliced in half when the hedge was trimmed.

Action: Keith to fix up meeting with Richard
David & Lu to pollard
Dave to write to Rob Sekula.

5. THE THIRD GATE:

Dave showed photos of the existing third gate. The path is 1.8m wide and the gate itself is just 1m wide. After much discussion it was agreed that:

- Pete Taylor should be asked if he is happy with the proposal before continuing
- The Heath Way residents should be asked if they want the gate moving closer to the road (the committee felt this was not necessary). They should also be asked if they want to start locking the gate at night.
- Given the cost of a new wrought iron gate and the nature of the existing gate, it was felt that rather than replace the whole gate, or put a sign over the top of the existing one, a circular disc (made of steel like the name plate over the main gate) should be fixed to the gate itself. The disc would be around 80 cm in diameter and would have the words "SUSIE'S GATE" cut into it (see mock-up below).

Action: Jeannette or Dave to contact Pete Taylor.

AOB:

David Martin mentioned that there were some leaks from the lower, circular pool appearing on the path along the back of the Heath Way houses. It was agreed that this was a matter for SHDC to pursue, rather than the LGA.

NEXT MEETING: The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd November 2017 at the ReEconomy building, starting at 6pm.

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

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Leechwell Garden - Garden Volunteer Projects

	Task	Notes July/August	Current status Oct
1	Prune selected climbers on the pergola	Using Dave's hedge trimmer and under Jeannette's guidance!	Complete
2	Prepare stone path for resurfacing by clearing 'grass creep' from edges	Need a garden hoe and similar tools	Some initial work done by volunteers; more will be needed by SHDC when path resurfaced
3	Clear edge vegetation from ponds/pools	Safety measure! Can be done by hand	Complete
4	Mulch all young trees in lawn areas	Cut 1m square from turf and backfill with mulch material – keeps strimmers a safe distance from the base of trees!	Complete
5	Cut wildflower grassy bank and rake up arisings	Using Jim's strimmer/brushcutter; need to put barrier tape across top of bank whilst in operation (Keith will bring); grass rakes in shed	Didn't do summer cut but now complete - cut unannounced by SHDC; raked the following day by volunteers! Aim to get onto two cut cycle in 2018 – July and September. This will improve the diversity of the meadow by reducing the bulkiness of the coarse grasses and (ie) hogweed
6	Re-pollard group of willows in corner	As previously done by David/Lu. Bowsaws.	A job for this autumn – David & Lu
7	Rake sand evenly through sand pit as temporary measure	Sand has migrated a bit to bottom side; will need SHDC to top up soon	Complete, but needs another rake as sand has again migrated down the slope. Waiting to here if our play inspector Richard Ellingham will do this on his visits.
8	Dig up and dispose of Lesser Hogweed from bank/beds	Where we can! Gloves!	Some complete, but we will need to get on top of this in 2018
9	Adjust tree ties on all young trees	Hand tools	Complete

Other jobs Keith following up:

	Project identified (July/Aug)	Current status (October)
10	SHDC to cut (LGA to rake) grassy wildflower banks late September	Complete, as above
11	SHDC to resurface 'top dress' stone paths , probably Autumn	SHDC has agreed to work this winter if LGA research. David has looked into further - C Rathbone has confirmed 10mm to dust limestone scalping will be the right material for a top up. Aggregate Industries Kingskerswell can supply. KR to forward details, quantities, prices to SHDC
12	SHDC to top up bark chip in mulch surface path	Will be done at same time as above
13	SHDC to cut back dangerous bramble overhang in Leechwell Lane	Has been reported; will do so again
14	SHDC to trim ' natural ' boundary hedges in Autumn	KR to send reminder now it is autumn
15	SHDC to trim planted hedge (both sides) adjacent to lawn timing tbc	Complete, need to monitor if further cut needed in 2018, could do at same time as above
16	SHDC to put advisory age/responsibility sign on play tower	Design drafted and agreed, going to print/manufacture this month
17	SHDC to top up sand pit asap	Awaiting response from SHDC Play Inspector; KR to follow up again
18	SHDC to replace 2 no. trees accidentally 'topped' with formal hedge (no 15)	LGA chair to write to Rob Sekula and request?

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The third gate, viewed from Heath Way. The path is 1.8 m wide and the gate itself is 1 m wide. Note that the mock-up sign is just that – the actual sign might well be quite different in size, shape and style.

