

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 1st AGM

Held at the Civic Hall, Totnes, at 6pm on June 29th 2010

1. Chair's Report- Sue Holmes

The Chair welcomed the Deputy Chair of SHDC, the Deputy Mayor of the Town Council, Town and District Councillors and members of the community (about 100 attendees in all)

She noted that this was the first AGM since the Association was set up as a fully fledged community project working in association with the District Council, and following on from the earlier work done by DOS. The new garden is already substantially in place, and will provide a much needed green heart at centre of Totnes- a meeting place for all members of the community. The Garden demonstrates sustainability values, involves and draws together local organisations, will showcase local creative talent and reflects how the community have pulled together to get the job done. The Chair asked for a vote of thanks for all those involved in the garden to date.

Much has been achieved since the Association was formed in January 2009, particularly the LGA Lottery Fund Community Spaces bid for 50K. This includes funding for play, seating, gates, herb garden, public art, additional planting and other features. We hope to hear the outcome by the end of July. The LGA has formed strong working partnerships with South Hams District Council, the Totnes Development Trust (licence holders and accountable body) the Town Council, many local organisations and the British Trust of Community Volunteers. Copies of the CS bid can be found in the Library, the Town Council and on the LGA website

The Chair described the development of the Garden as three discrete Projects. Project 1 (infrastructure) is now almost complete, Project 2 will comprise all the items requested in the CS bid (Charlotte Rathbone will describe later) and many community-building outcomes. If the bid is successful Jim Carfrae will be project manager. Project 3 will be the Pool Area which will necessitate further fund raising. There will be many opportunities to participate including joining teams of garden volunteers (Jeannette) the Advisory Committee of neighbouring properties, in maintenance teams and by continuing to support the LGA, fundraising and donations.

2. SHDC Report-Ross Kennerley

Ross noted the long ongoing collaboration with the community via DOS and the LGA which had resulted in the provision of a new and much needed open space in Totnes. He discussed ownership of the garden- which will remain with SHDC- and the licence for use of the garden which will be held with TDT. Public access through the Heathway houses is being held back for the time being until all ten houses have been sold. Some changes will be made to internal linking paths in the near future. SHDC will have continuing legal and maintenance obligations for the new garden.

3. Minutes of the 2009 AGM- Dave Mitchell

Minutes Agreed

4. Elections- Dave Mitchell

The current Officers (Chair, Sue Holmes, Secretary, Shirley Prendergast and Treasurer, Ed Vidler) have agreed to stand again. **It was unanimously agreed that all three be re-elected for another term of office.**

The current Committee Members (Jeannette Willington, Wendy Reid, David Mitchell, Janet Mitchell) have agreed to stand again **It was unanimously agreed that all be re-elected onto the Committee.**

Lorette Logie (Heathway resident) has been proposed as a new member. **It was unanimously agreed that she be elected onto the Committee.**

Two new co-opted members were proposed and **unanimously agreed**, Jill Tomalin and Anna Lunk.

5. Voting on Constitutional Changes- Ed Vidler

The meeting discussed the proposed changes and after discussion on the item regarding the proposed method of voting, all amendments as detailed in the notice of the meeting were accepted unanimously.

6. Treasurers Report- Ed Vidler

The report submitted showed that the LGA at the end of the year still had a small surplus of cash, largely as a result of the money transferred from DOS. The Treasurer reported that this had subsequent to the year end been spent but that Totnes Development Trust was advancing money to LGA ahead of the anticipated funding.

7. Virtual Tour of the Garden- Charlotte Rathbone

Charlotte Rathbone, Landscape Architect for the garden, described completed work on the infrastructure of the garden and explained the features that will be added to it if the LGA lottery bid is successful. Members of the LGA were invited to visit the garden at the end of the meeting. Guides would be available to answer questions during the garden visit.

8. Questions and AOB

Q. Will there be more seats in the garden?

A. Yes, we intend to provide more seats in various places.

Q. What is to happen about the immersion pool? Where does the water come from?

A. (Shirley) Excluded from the Garden at present but will be restored at later date.

Present pool maybe not as old as first thought. Possibly Victorian but on site of an older pool. Water piped from the Leechwell.

Q. Were the entrances from Heathway through the houses to be open to the public?

A (Ross) The Garden was planned to have four public access points. SHDC still owns the land. There is still negotiation to happen with Midas and the residents when the management is handed over to the latter.

Q. How is the garden providing for children?

A (Sue) Apart from the play area, they can paddle in the water. But no ball games (and no dogs) in the garden. We are hoping to involve children from Grove and KEVIC in some planning.

Q. Comment. It is worrying that the wall is so low; so easy to climb over.

A. Agreed that it is easy to climb over!

9. Chair responded to Questions

Thanked meeting, noted questions of general interest- feedback will be put on the LGA website. During the garden tour technical questions should be addressed to Jim Carfrae.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.50pm
After the meeting, members of the LGA were invited to visit the garden which
was open until about 8.30pm.**

The Committee.

Sue Holmes	Chair
Shirley Prendergast	Secretary
Ed Vidler	Treasurer
Other Members	Janet Mitchell, Dave Mitchell, Wendy Reid, Jeannette Willington, Lorette Logie
Co-opted	Robert Vint, Anna Lunk, Jill Tomalin, Alan Gorman, Alex Whish (SHDC)