

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2011 AGM

Held at the Seven Stars Hotel, Totnes, at 7pm on May 18th 2011

1. Chair's Report- Sue Holmes

It is 7 ½ years since Susie Boyd, Shirley and Dave set up Design Our Space to save the space we now know as Leechwell Garden. I am going to give a project update since the last AGM, and look at our plans for the next year.

PROJECT UPDATE

In our Feasibility Study in 2005, we recommended a partnership between the community and SHDC for the consultation, design, funding, implementation, management and maintenance of the new open space. We have now almost completed the fourth stage, implementation. Since last year, we have received £50k funding from Community Spaces, we have implemented the project on time and in budget, thanks to our project manager, Jim Carfrae. There was a very successful opening in October, the herb garden has been planted up, we've had several very well attended practical sessions for volunteers, such as dry stone walling and tree planting. And the Garden has been very well used and much appreciated. Community Spaces have also awarded us a Sustainability Grant of £3,500 for maintenance equipment and storage, and for activities to complete project delivery and promotion. The not so good news is the delay in signing the licence between Totnes Development Trust, our accountable body, and SHDC, due to circumstances outside control. So management and maintenance of the Garden remain SHDC's responsibility for the time being. We will, however, maintain the items delivered under the Community Spaces contract, with the help of volunteers.

PLANS

Still to come is the sculpture by Rosie Musgrave, winner of our public art competition, later in the summer. We will be having events in the Garden, bat boxes installed, wildlife education talks and a film made of the whole community process. The Pool Group will talk about their plans later.

I would also like to mention what to me is the real legacy of our work, which is that other groups, looking at what has been achieved at Leechwell Garden, have been inspired to say "We can do that", and offer to develop other sites.

PEOPLE

For people are the most important part of any project. First I'd like to pay tribute to the contractors who created the gates, the pergola, the play structure and the benches. They are pieces of functional art, of the highest craftsmanship, and all local firms. And the project would never have happened without 10s of 1000's hours work by volunteers, involving all sections of community. We have to thank Ed Vidler, our treasurer and chair of TDT, for his project and financial management skills, Alex Whish and Ross Kennerley of SHDC for their professionalism, but most of all I want to thank the Leechwell Garden Association. We are not a committee, we are a team, with each individual contributing their own skills towards a common goal, and with the understanding of knowing what it really takes to get the job done.

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

The majority of LGA members have been involved for 7 years, and most, including myself, are of maturer years. So what they have contributed, in addition to their particular skills, are commitment, patience, work and life experience, and above all, determination to get the job done.

I want to give a special mention to two people who are stepping down as committee members but will remain involved as volunteers: Shirley, one of the DOS founder members, and Jeannette, responsible for the lovely herb garden. But the whole team deserves our thanks and appreciation.

I too have been involved in the project since its beginning, and I am now stepping down as chair after two very exciting but exhausting years, but will be staying on as a committee member. We are entering a new phase of the project, and we want new faces and new ideas to carry the work forward.

It has been an honour to be entrusted with the task of helping turn the community's dreams into reality. Thank you.

2. Minutes of the 2009 AGM - Dave Mitchell

Minutes Agreed

3. Elections - Dave Mitchell

The current Chair and Secretary had decided to stand down. Jim Carfrae was proposed as new chair by Dave Mitchell and seconded by Lorette Logie. Dave Mitchell was proposed as new secretary by Sue Holmes and seconded by Jeannette Willington. Ed Vidler agreed to continue to be Treasurer and was proposed by Dave Mitchell and seconded by Jim Carfrae.

Sue Holmes, Lorette Logie, Janet Mitchell, Wendy Reid and Jill Tomalin were all re-elected as committee members. In addition Roma Church (proposed by Jim Carfrae and seconded Janet Mitchell) and Liz Warnes (proposed by Dave Mitchell and seconded by Jeremy Logie) were also elected.

Co-option will take place at the next committee meeting but will include Catherine Munro and Stephanie Parker.

4. Treasurers Report - Ed Vidler

Ed presented the accounts (see next page).

5. The Pool Project

Dave Mitchell, Shirley Prendergast and Roma Church, three members of the Pool Project, briefly described the work the group had done so far and invited all those present to attend the Pool Design Event, to be held at Birdwood House on Saturday June 25th 2011 from 10am until 3pm to gather community ideas for the design of the pool area.

6. AOB

Sue Holmes distributed copies of the Totnes Garden Trail – which describes a walk round southern Totnes taking in the three new open spaces (the Lamb Garden, Heath's Garden and the Leechwell Garden).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.40pm

LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION

The 2011 Committee.

Jim Carfrae	Chair
Dave Mitchell	Secretary
Ed Vidler	Treasurer
Other Members	Janet Mitchell, Sue Holmes, Wendy Reid, Lorette Logie, Jill Tomalin, Roma Church and Liz Warnes

TOTNES DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Registered Charity Number 1081005

April
2011

2010
£

2011
£

LEECHWELL GARDEN FUND

<i>Donations:</i>		
Open Day	136	
P Ward	100	
Nat Wmn's Reg	40	
Opening	94	
<i>Grants:</i>		
SHDC		350
Groundwork	36,761	8,218
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	37,130	8,568

EXPENDITURE

Admin	-	62
Sundry Costs	364	110
Fees	-	776
Insurance	216	15
Room Hire	177	45
Project Mngt	2,700	
Gates	7,755	
Pergola	9,810	
Making Good	500	
Opening Event	1,500	
Walls	554	
Benches	4,750	2,450
Play Feature	11,744	542
Signs		299
Herb Garden	774	221
Art	1,650	
Trees	107	270
P I Inspection		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-42,601	-4,727
Surplus ytd	-5,471	3,841
b/fwd	566	-4,904
c/fwd	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-4,904	

-1,063