

Minutes of Leechwell Garden Association Committee Meeting

Wednesday 21st April 2010 3.00pm. Leechwell Cottage

Present: Sue Holmes (Chair), Dave Mitchell, Janet Mitchell, Robert Vint, Jim Carfrae, Jeannette Willington, Alex Whish

1 Apologies: Ed Vidler, Shirley Prendergast, Wendy Reid

2 Minutes of LGA Committee Meeting 1st April 2010: Agreed

3 Matters arising:

The press release has been published in the Totnes Times.

We are asking for two regular car spaces for the disabled in front of the entrance to the Garden, but are not happy if that would mean removing existing spaces for the disabled from the Heathway Car Park.

4 Town Council Meeting: There was a very positive response for the Garden from the councillors at the Town Council Meeting, offering support for the LGA. They felt that the Garden was a major contribution to the open space requirements for the town. The suggestion put to them that the locking and unlocking of the gates of the Garden could become the responsibility of the caretaker was favourably received.

Progress on Garden: Turfing and some planting is being carried out. It is too dry to seed other areas at present, namely wild flower meadow and also woodland grass mixes.

The contractors expect to be finished in three weeks time.

Temporary gates are to be provided which will be kept locked.

Handover: This is expected when the contractors are off site. As project manager Jim will then be able to move forward with planning Phase2.

5 Community Spaces Application: This is nearing completion. The partnership group had a most encouraging meeting with Jowanna Lewis (the Community Spaces fascillitator) who reviewed the draft application. She will ask Community Spaces for a month's extension to complete all the documents, but the application should be ready in another fortnight. **SH EV DM JC RV**

We now have the signed copy of the LGA Constitution, but still require the Memorandum of Agreement from SHDC.

Jeannette e-mailed members to thank them for responding to the questionnaire, and to direct them to the results on the web-site.

6 Official visit: An advance viewing of the Garden for the Town Council, SHDC councillors and the LGA Committee is to be arranged in early June by SHDC. Alex Whish will co-ordinate this. **AW**
A less formal public preview and event will be arranged to happen in July.

7 AGM: This is deferred because of the delay in submitting the funding application. It will be considered at the next committee meeting when more

members will be present.
Ross or Alex will be invited to give a talk.

8 Sub-groups:

Volunteers. For activities not dependent on funding, some volunteer groups could start organising, eg. planning the Herb Garden.

It would be good to have involvement as soon as possible. **JW**

It has been proposed to form a separate sub-group to take on the maintenance management of the Garden. This will come from members who have volunteered specifically to help maintain the Garden.

Public Art. To attract a grant from Community Spaces we shall set up a competition. Applicants will be given a brief; applications will be judged by a panel with some experience and expertise. A list of names of possible judges is to be drawn up. **JM**

Champions. Tony Mead and David Horseborough in their capacities as Champions will be invited to join the sub-groups and to attend meetings. In the context of the Garden, they are concerned respectively with road crossing and access for the elderly and disabled.

9 Pool: Because of Shirley's absence the report on this is held over.

10 AOB: The matter of opening times for the Garden was discussed. Dave had researched seasonal sundown times as one possible criteria, but no decision on this was taken. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Sue had a meeting with Charles Fox to discuss issues which will be common to both Heath Garden and to Leechwell Garden.

'No alcohol' zones can only be put in place when there have been complaints, and actual nuisance due to drinking alcohol is proven.

The other problem is with dog fouling; SHDC is not happy about a dog latrine. The intention is to make Leechwell Garden a 'dog-free' zone.

11 Next Meetings : Stage 2 Application. Monday 26th April 2.30pm
Leechwell Cottage
Committee Meeting. Monday 10th May 2.30pm
Leechwell Cottage

Thanks to Janet and Dave for continuing to provide the venue.

