

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION MEETING
Wednesday 23rd September 2015 at 6pm in the REconomy Centre, Leechwell Street

Present: Dave Mitchell (Chair), Shirley Prendergast, Jeannette Willington, Jim Carfrae, David Martin, Susie Boyd, Marsha Cummings

1. Apologies: Lu Overy, Ed Vidler, Keith Rennels, Alex Wish, Catherine Munroe, Susan Holmes

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 1st and 23rd July were agreed.

3. Matters arising: Dave went through the few action items in the minutes which were mostly completed or would be discussed later in the meeting. He noted we had not heard anything as a result of participating in this and would contact Diana Cusack for information.

4. Kiran Chahal's Workshops on 3rd and 4th October

Notices have been put up in the garden about the events and they will go ahead on the 3rd and 4th October. The activities are messy (body painting) but will be cleared up to leave the garden tidy.

5. Finance Update

We still have £120 in the Imprest account and are topped up on the main fund. £1000 approximately has been clawed back from VAT and amounts are still going in from the plant table from time to time.

6. Replacement play structure

At the meeting in the garden with Alex Wish and Keith Rennels on 23rd July we were made aware of the New Homes Bonus scheme to which we could apply for some of the £15000 or so the replacement might cost. Recent publicity about the fund is likely to mean other groups will apply so it was agreed we should progress the matter. Dave agreed to contact Alex Wish who at the 23rd July meeting had said he would contact Mike Jones of Earthwrights and get a list of at least 2 other contractors.

7. Watering the garden

Dave has the device for pumping the water and he and Jim Carfrae will test the pump at a convenient date to see if it can be placed some distance from either the pool and/or the herb garden.

8. Scheduled Monument Consent for work on the Pool

Shirley circulated a paper about this. We need to go ahead with a "general enhancement application" for the consent for the pool and the garden. Shirley will arrange a meeting with interested committee members in the next month.

9. SHDC Update

Nothing to report.

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10. Garden News

Jeanette said that Douglas had been to lay bark to prevent weeds in the herb garden. She has ordered 500 bulbs for a Spring display. There is a feeling that people would like more shrubs in the garden.

We now have a brown bin for garden waste and David Martin will put this out when necessary so it can be emptied.

Shirley has put a want advertisement in the paper for an umbrella for the plant table but with no response so far. We could buy one but it would be nice to have one donated. Shirley will also put a notice in the garden asking if anyone has one.

Shirley mentioned the hedge round the pool area and has talked to Keith about this. The hedge needs laying on both sides but we may have to do more planting to fill in gaps. The laying would be a good opportunity for a workshop in the garden. It has to be done in the dead season (February) but needs good growth first. It will take a couple of years to achieve this. Shirley said that if we lay the hedge it will look untidy for a period of about two years while it grows but the act of laying it will increase growth.

A discussion took place about the other hedges bordering the garden, some of which need to be tidied up.

11. AOB

Jim Carfrae has received an email from John Churchill, the blacksmith who did the garden gates. He would like a reference from the Committee. That was agreed. It was felt that he had done good work with the gates. Dave Mitchell will email some photos of the gates to Jim.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Association will be at 6pm Wednesday 21st October 2015 at the REconomy building.