

MINUTES FOR LEECHWELL GARDEN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 24th August 2016 6.30pm at the REconomy Centre

PRESENT: David Mitchell (Chair), David Martin, Lu Overy, Keith Rennells

1. APOLOGIES: Jim Carfrae, Frances Gilmore, Marsha Cummings, Jeannette Willington, Shirley Prendergast

2. MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the 27th July 2016 were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

None not covered later in the meeting

4. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID – ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Following emails from Robert Vint about protecting the Leechwell Garden from future development by nominating it as an 'Asset of Community Value', those present decided that:

- (a) the inclusion of the garden in the SHDC T3 development plan was a mapping error
- (b) it was inconceivable that SHDC would redevelop the garden anyway
- (c) the matter was best handled as part of the Totnes Neighbourhood Plan

5. REPLACEMENT OF PLAY STRUCTURE AND AUTUMN EVENT PLANS

Keith had talked to Earthwrights who confirmed that their start date would be October 31st (after the half-term holiday) with the work being completed before the end of November. Earthwrights have offered to remove the existing structure – cutting it up and offering (free) it as firewood to the local community. Clearly SHDC would be happy not to have to do it and the committee felt it was a good idea too. The clearance would be done on the Saturday before the work started (29th October).

Given the likelihood that the new Play Structure would not be ready for use until early December it was felt that an Autumn (Winter?) Event was not really possible. Instead it was felt there should be an Opening Ceremony (by the Mayor?).

6. AGM PLANS

While we are long overdue to hold an AGM, it was decided to hold the next one in early January. Holding it before the Play Structure was replaced was not felt to be a good idea, and afterwards people will be concerned with Christmas.

7. WATERING THE GARDEN

Dave reported that Guy and Paul had made good progress on preparing for the shed (which will be delivered and erected on Tuesday September 1st). They have already buried the cable and hose (in plastic conduit) between the shed base and the pool and the shed base was nearly complete. Guy felt that the two PV panels would be much better fixed atop the shed than on the pergola (where they would quickly be covered/shaded by vegetation). Dave agreed that provided they could be fixed firmly that was a good idea.

AOB:

Keith said that the annual 'cut and rake' should be undertaken in September and that the pool area (at least the part of it between the gate and pool) could be cleared at the same time. Keith will arrange the date to fit in with the volunteers – a Monday morning (19th or 26th September) was felt most suitable. Lu raised the question of Japanese Knotweed in the pool area – was it still an issue?

Action: Keith to arrange (with Lu)

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Keith had talked to Alex about arranging for the SHDC 'tree gang' to make a visit to the garden in the near future – one of the willows needed to be removed and the birches 'crown-lifted' and there may be other tree-related tasks to carry out.

Action: Keith to arrange (**DONE**)

Keith reported that there was a hole in the garden near the picnic table that might trip up a young child. . Dave said there was a similar hole in his garden that looked like it might have been made by a badger (and neighbours had reported similar holes). Keith said he would get SHDC to fill it in with topsoil.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Committee will be on Wednesday 21st September 2016 at 6pm at the ReEconomy building in Leechwell Street.

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