

Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard
Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council
Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting
6th September 2019 at “Maple View”, Chignal Smealey

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Malcolm Feltwell (Committee Chairman), Lynn Ballard (Committee Secretary)

Co-opted members: Steve Middleditch, Barbara Miller, Moira Tarrant

Apologies: Geoff Pitts, Sarah Scott, Simon Leadbeater, (will no longer attend as re-sponsorship now completed)

The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.

Agenda items	Action points	Responsible
1.Outstanding actions from 26 June 2019 Sub-Committee	Work has started to paint the shed with preservative and an alarm will be purchased and fitted.	MF/GP
	During the hay raking session on 10 th Sept, posts and plastic mesh will be removed from several of the larger trees where the post is rubbing against them. These trees will continue to be protected using spiral guards. Plaques will be hung from lower branches using a tie which will not damage the tree.	MF/LB
	The production of the promotional roller-banner is deferred until next year: first use expected to be at the Village Hall Fete in early June 2020.	SM
	Other Sub-Committee actions were picked up on the agenda.	
2.Orchard events, activities and marketing	The Mid-Summer and Wildflower Picnic on Sunday 30 June attracted around 15 people and most participated in the wildflower identification. The orchard is an important site to demonstrate biodiversity and this event will be run again next summer.	LB/BM/SM
	Fruit Celebration on Sunday 20th October from around 12.00 – 2pm to follow on from the Harvest Festival at St Nicholas Church. Weather forecast will be reviewed two days before the event and decision made on whether to hold it in the Village Hall or under the marquee in the orchard. Marquee to be erected on the Sunday at 9am if fine weather predicted and tables set up. Thermos flasks of hot water and mugs to be taken from the Village Hall for hot drinks. Tea, coffee, sugar already purchased by LB. Cakes and savouries to be offered to visitors.	MF/SM/LB/BM
		MF/BM
		MB/LB
		MT/BM
	Fruit will be harvested according to MT’s updated picking chart and stored in a fridge ready for the event. MT to deliver fruit to BM to bring to the event. Preserves will be made with orchard fruit that ripens before the event, such as pear jam and quince cheese. Research cost of buying new jam jars. MT has artwork for labels.	BM/SM/MT
Posters to be designed by SM and printed by MF in early October.	SM/MF	
VE Day celebrations: 8 – 10 May 2020. BM to attend the next Community Group meeting to request that all of the VE Day events	BM	

	<p>that are being planned: in the Church, (ringing church bell); Village Hall, (Writtle handbell ringers); and, in the orchard, (world war 2 costumed spring blossom picnic with music) happen sequentially on the same day.</p> <p>“George Cave” Apple Tree, number 45 to be dedicated to VE Day. Ken Buck’s plaque to be moved to Mulberry Tree, number 1 to join Gordon Lee’s plaque and the tree to become a memorial to Parish Councillors.</p> <p>Parish Council to be asked to include an agenda item on the VE Day Celebrations for the 11th November meeting.</p> <p>Possible Wassailing event in early January 2020: the Good Easter Molly Gang to be approached in November.</p> <p>Marketing: Chignal News article to be drafted for the November edition reporting on the Fruit Celebration.</p> <p>Orchard Information Panel: text needs further amendment; map showing the numbered trees to be checked. Should be in place in time for the Fruit Celebration. The Parish Council to be asked to store the orchard artwork on a hard drive.</p>	<p>MF/SL</p> <p>LB/PC Clerk</p> <p>MT</p> <p>LB</p> <p>SM/MT</p> <p>LB/PC Clerk</p>
3.Orchard maintenance	<p>Health check: concern about the poor quality of the new Tun Apple trees supplied by East of England Apples and Orchards early this year as the branches were denuded of fruit buds. Photos to be taken of these new trees and sent to the supplier for comment. Other reputable heritage fruit tree suppliers to be investigated, such as Keepers in Kent. Gansel’s Bergamot pear tree, number 14 is not thriving and may need water as close to the roadside hedge.</p> <p>Watering: BM has been watering the new and weaker trees during the summer drought</p> <p>Main grass cut: completed in a morning on 5th Sept by MF/AS and SM using hired power scythe, Austrian scythe and strimmer.</p> <p>Hay raking: to be done on Tuesday 10th Sept starting at 9.30am. Orchard Friends to be invited to help.</p> <p>Picnic bench: to be sanded and shed preservative applied.</p> <p>Benches: new oak bench has been painted with shed preservative and will be concreted in place next year after winter.</p> <p>Ladder: hooks needed to hang up ladder. Ladder needs to be accessible in the shed for use in time for harvesting the quinces.</p>	<p>MT/LB</p> <p>MF/BM</p> <p>BM</p> <p>MF/LB/AS/S</p> <p>M/RB</p> <p>MF/AS</p> <p>MF/MT</p>
4 .Review of the Orchard Budget	<p><u>Invoices:</u> none.</p> <p><u>Income:</u> all trees now re-sponsored or dedicated. SL thanked again for organising the successful re-sponsorship.</p> <p><u>Approved new expenditure:</u> hire of the power scythe, £90.00.</p> <p><u>Orchard Budget</u> report required for next Orchard Sub-Committee. Grant application to be made to the PC meeting on 9 Sept for training volunteers to work with machinery in the orchard.</p>	<p>SL</p> <p>PC Clerk</p> <p>SM/LB/MF</p>
5. ESORG	<p>Members of the Orchard committee may attend the next ESORG meeting on 30 Sept if the venue is fairly local.</p>	<p>MF/LB/SM</p>
6. Date of next meeting	<p>Friday 8th November 2019, 9.30 at “Anlora”, Chignal St James</p>	<p>MF</p>