**Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard**

**Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council**

**Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting**

**26th June 2019 at “The Community Orchard”, Chignal St James**

**Present:**

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

Co-opted members: Simon Leadbeatter, Steve Middleditch, Barbara Miller, Geoff Pitts, Sarah Scott, Moira Tarrant

**The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.**

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| **Agenda items** | **Action points** | **Responsible** |
| **1.Outstanding actions from 8 May 2019 Sub-Committee** | The shed will be painted with preservative during the summer and an alarm will be purchased and fitted.  Wooden 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.  Writtle University College could offer a one day training session for 8 people at the orchard on working safely with machinery at a cost of £700.00. Participants would be awarded a certificate of attendance. Village Hall Committee and members of the Croquet Club to be consulted as their members also use grass cutting equipment. Parish Council to be approached to see whether the cost could be funded from CIL as part of the mower purchase package.  Other Sub-Committee actions were picked up on the agenda. | MF/GP  MF/LB  LB/Parish Clerk |
| **2.Orchard events, activities and marketing** | The orchard stand at the Village Hall Fete was moderately successful. MF was thanked for manning the stand and providing chocolate dipped strawberries. More orchard preserves should be on display next year. Agreement to purchase a roller banner (£35 - £54) for orchard artwork.  The **Mid-Summer and Wildflower Picnic** on **Sunday 30 June** from 3pm – 5pm. Marquee to be erected on Thursday at 10.30am plus bunting.  Village hall to be opened at 2.30pm on Sunday. Take hot water flasks and mugs from the village hall to provide hot drinks in the marquee.  Tea, coffee, milk, sugar, cake, paper plates and disposable cups to be provided.  Cordial and water to be provided.  20 wild plants in flower to be identified and marked with a number on a stick. Highlight the bug hotel and occupation by solitary bees. Preserves to be used as prizes.  **Fruit Celebration** to be held on **Sunday 20th October** from 12.30 – 2pm to coincide with the Harvest Festival at St Nicholas Church. Hot apple juice and mulled cider to be served. Village Hall has been booked.  **VE Day celebrations: 8 – 10 May 2020.** St Nicholas Church is planning activities on all three days, including using the Writtle hand-bell ringers to perform, (cost likely to be £80.00).The Community Group is willing to help at village VE events. Agreed to “wait and see” before organising an event in the orchard.    **Marketing**: Chignal News articles to be drafted for the July edition reporting on the wildflower picnic and in September publicising the Fruit Celebration.  **Orchard Information Panel:** text has been amended; map showing the numbered trees to be checked. Photos to be agreed and parents to be consulted on any images showing their children. | MF/SM  MF/SM/GP/SL  SS  LB  BM  LB/MF  SS  SM  LB/MF  MF/SM/MF  SM/MF  LB |
| **3.Orchard maintenance** | **Health check:** of trees done in June. Some trees have dropped fruit and there has been extensive damage to plum fruit and branches by pigeons. Need to consider other means of deterring pigeons. Varieties such as Chelmsford Wonder, Montfort and Seabrooks Red appear to be particularly susceptible to aphid infestation. In other varieties such as Pearl and George Cave it is more random. Hopeful for a good fruit harvest, although one quince has aphid damage.  **Watering** of the 4 newly planted trees done on 2 June.  **Grass cutting** now takes about an hour with two people. Next cut on 27th June.  **Bug hotel renovation**: completed.  **Picnic bench:** to be sanded and shed preservative applied.  **Benches:** new oak bench to be concreted in place of existing softwood bench which may be restored if suitable.  **Ladder for pruning**: consider whether a trolley is required to move the ladder around the orchard. Hooks needed to hang up ladder. | MT  BM  MF/AS  MT  MF/GP  MF |
| **4 .Review of the Orchard Budget** | Invoices: none.  Income: excellent response to re-sponsorship. MF to contact the one remaining sponsor. SL thanked for organising the re-sponsorship.  Approved new expenditure: roller banner, £35 - £54. Village Hall hire for 30 June and 20 October, £40.00. | SL/MF  SM/MF/LB |
| **5. ESORG** | Members of the Orchard committee may attend if the next ESORG meeting venue is fairly local. The ESORG co-ordinator has requested to meet LB at Hyde Hall to see the newly planted heritage orchard. | LB/SM |
| **6. Date of next meeting** | **Friday 6th September 2019, 9.30 at “Maple View”** | BM |