**Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard**

**Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council**

**Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting**

**10th April 2018 at “Bumbys”, Mashbury**

**Present:**

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

Co-opted members: Barbara Miller, Geoff Pitts, Moira Tarrant

Apologies: Steve Middleditch, Simon Leadbeatter, Sarah Scott

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

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| **Agenda items** | **Action points** | **Responsible** |
| **1.Outstanding actions from 8 February 2018 Sub-Committee** | Following several vehicle collisions and other incidents at Howletts Corner, the PC asked ECC to address road safety concerns, for example, by re-instating the lay-by that had been sited outside “Howletts”. The Clerk to be requested to ask Cllr Aldridge to confirm land ownership.  Other Sub-Committee actions were picked up on the agenda. | MF |
| **2.Orchard events** | **Spring** **Blossom event,** **Sunday 29April, 3pm – 5pm**.  Orchard Friends have been invited to a ‘bring & share’ tea with traditional music and dancing using decorated hoops. The village hall has been hired to provide access to toilet facilities and car parking. Car parking will also be available in the playing field if not too wet. The Village Hall Committee has been asked about hiring the marquee.  SM was thanked for designing an eye catching poster which will be erected in various locations in the parish, including outside BM’s house and in the local supermarket and library. It was decided not to send the poster to local schools as this is primarily a local community event. LB to email poster to local residents.  The orchard grass will be cut on Saturday 28th April at 10.00 and the marquee erected. Orchard Friends to be asked to help.  Marquee to be decorated on the Sunday morning and tables and hoops put out. Safety poles and tape to be put up at the entrance.  Tea to be provided from MF’s van.  MF to liaise with SM to provide country dancing music. BM to organise dancing around the Mulberry tree.  Orchard Friends to be sent a reminder about the event and the grass cutting on the 28th April, at least one week before.  SS had looked at other orchard websites to for ideas on events and activities and would be asked to report at the next meeting. | SS  LB  SM/MF/BM  LB  SS  LB/MF  MF/SM/BM  SS  SS |
| **3.Orchard maintenance** | MT reported that the bird scarers appear to have been successful in deterring birds from damaging the buds. There were no aphids on the trees so far. MT was thanked for her efforts.  Fertiliser has been applied to each tree and bags of mulch filled and delivered to the orchard. Special thanks were due to the partners of orchard committee members who helped to collect the mulch, (Simon Tarrant, Robert Miller and Andy Scheidegger. The mulch to be put around each tree when conditions allow a vehicle on-site, preferably before the Spring Blossom event. MT to co-ordinate. MF offered to dispose of the old mulch mats.  Village Hall Committee chairman to be asked about burning the hedge clippings on their bonfire site in May.  MT will prune the plums in May.  Grass cutting during the summer would be arranged when weather conditions were right. A list of people who are willing to mow the orchard to be compiled. It would also be necessary to keep the area around each tree free of weeds. | MT  MT  MF  LB  MT  MF |
| **4 .Review of the Orchard Budget** | No new Invoices or Income.  Approved new expenditure: hire of the village hall car park and toilets for the 29 April Spring Blossom event: £20.00.  The Parish Council is still waiting for an invoice for £200 rent from the City Council. A further request is being made to the City Council to sell the site to the Parish Council.  A combined storage facility on the playing field has been proposed for Community Infrastructure Levy funding. The Orchard Committee’s requirements for storage need to be set out so that they can be considered as part of this project. | SL  MF/LB |
| **5. Orchards East Project** | Orchards in Chignal and Mashbury indicated on OS maps provided by the Orchards East project to be surveyed and detailed information to be provided on our community orchard. | LB/MT/Simon Tarrant |
| **6.Orchard Committee 14 May, agenda items** | The draft agenda was agreed with the following changes: MT to produce a report on tree management and wildlife recording for BM to present at the meeting; SS to be asked to report on Orchard Friends and publicity if SM unable to attend. | MT/BM  SM/SS |
| **7. Date of next meeting** | **Monday 2nd July 2018, 9.30 am at “3 Pitt Cottages, Mashbury Road, Chignal St James** | LB |