**Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard**

**Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council**

**Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting**

**23rd August 2016 at “Bumbys”, Fox Road, Mashbury**

**Present:**

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

Co-opted members: Sandra Bailey, Geoff Pitts, Moira Tarrant,

Apologies: Simon Leadbeatter

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

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| **Agenda items** | **Action points** | **Responsible** |
| 1. Outstanding actions from 3 June Sub- Committee | Information and images on wildlife and plants in the Orchard to be put on the Chignal parish website.  The Orchard Sub-Committee to explore joint working on community events and activities with the Village Hall Committee.  Produce an outline of a 3 year Business Plan for the Orchard to ensure that funds were in place to cover future running costs, planned developments and contingencies for the next meeting.  The orchard to be registered as a wild flower meadow on a national map: [www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk](http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk) to acknowledge its importance to local bio-diversity. Photos to be provided.  Other actions from 3 June Sub-Committee were picked up as agenda items. | MT  MF  SL/LB  MT |
| 1. Orchard events | The Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebration” event on Sunday 12th June had been very well attended and the games and competitions had been popular. The plant stall run by the Gardening Club generated £85.10 in sales which was shared by the Orchard and the Village Hall Committee.  The Orchard Fruit Celebration will be on Sunday 16th October at 12.15pm following on directly from the Harvest festival at St. Nicholas Church.  In addition to orchard fruit, visitors to be asked to bring any fruit, vegetables or home grown produce to share and take. Coffee and tea to be provided in the orchard and St Nicholas to be approached about borrowing their mugs.  The Good Easter Molly Men will not perform at the Orchard Wassailing in January 2017 but may perform again in future years. Orchard Friends to be informed. | SL  SB  MF/LB  SB |
| 3.Orchard maintenance | Routine grass cutting of the paths to be done on Sat 27 Aug at 10.00 as rain prevented cutting on the scheduled third Sat. Volunteers to be informed of this revised date. Main orchard cut to be done on Fri 2 Sept by sub-committee members. 2 brush-cutters to be hired.  Raking up the meadow hay on Sat 10 Sept. Orchard Friends to be invited to help and bring their own rakes.    Fruit is being harvested when ready and distributed at community events such as the W.I. Coffee Morning on 20 Aug (George Cave apples) and at monthly coffee mornings held at the Chapel and Village Hall (when it opens again).  Fruit trees are being monitored and watered when required. One of the ‘Pearl’ apple trees is causing concern and will be replaced this winter if necessary.  Shed, picnic table and bench to be treated with preservative before the end of the summer.  Research to be done on plastic matting that could be rolled out at the orchard entrance for events in wet weather.  It was noted that the orchard hedge adjacent to GP’s house was now over 12 feet high and interfering with the telegraph line. It will continue to be monitored and CCC to be reminded of their obligations to cut the hedges around the orchard. | MF/GP/SM/LB  MF  SB  MT  MT/LB  MF/GP/SL  SM  GP  LB |
| 4 .Review of the Orchard Budget | Orchard budget balance was £916.03 at 22 August 2016  Approved expenditure: £80.00 est. to hire 2 brush-cutters.  Income: £85.50 from the plant stall at the Queen’s Birthday event and £5.00 from tree sponsorship.  A bid for buying a grass cutter will be put forward at the Parish Council Budget Committee on 12 September from Community Infrastructure Levy monies. A proposal was considered for a CIL bid to build a pavilion on the playing field that could be used by for storage and events at the orchard and by other users of the playing field.  Several payments were still outstanding from tree sponsors. These trees would now be offered to others on the waiting list so that all of the new plaques could be engraved by the Fruit Celebration on 16 Oct. | SL  MF/LB  SM/MF/LB  SL/MF |
| 5. Any other business | It had been noted that the entrance to the playing field is now very rutted. Martyn Towns to be consulted on repairing this.  The Welcome Pack that is being produced for new residents would include information about the orchard.  A spring event at the orchard with a maypole and music was mooted to coincide with blossom time on the afternoon of Sunday 7 May. This event will be discussed at the next meeting. | SM/MF  SM/LB  SB/LB |
| 6. Date of next meeting | **Friday 7th October 2016, 9.30am at “3 Pitt Cottages”, Mashbury Road, Chignal St James** | LB |