**Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard**

**Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council**

**On-line Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting**

**21st August 2020**

**Present:** Parish Cllrs: Malcolm Feltwell (Committee Chairman), Lynn Ballard (Committee Secretary). Co-opted members: Steve Middleditch, Moira Tarrant

Apologies: None received

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda items** | **Action points** | **Responsible** |
| **1.Outstanding actions from 24 February 2020 Sub-Committee** | **Plaques:** 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.  **Ladder**: hooks needed to hang up ladder  **Orchard Committee**: May annual meeting was postponed until 2021 but it was noted that the membership of the committee would need to be reviewed at the next Parish Council meeting to ensure it comprises a minimum of two parish councillors.  Other Sub-Committee actions were picked up on the agenda. | MF  MF  LB |
| **2.Orchard events, activities and marketing** | **Fruit Celebration and Harvest Festival**  Waiting for confirmation next week from St Nicholas Church on a joint event starting at 11.00 in the orchard: either Sunday 11th or 18th October. LB, SM available both dates. Orchard Friends to be informed of date when agreed.  Could erect marquee in the orchard if necessary. May be possible to use Village Hall, (not kitchen) for parish events by October.  Poster to be produced when details confirmed.  **Marketing**: Chignal News article to be drafted for October edition including photos of main orchard cut.  **Website:** Clerk allowed access to new website [www.e-voice.org.uk/Chignal-Parish](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/Chignal-Parish) during the meeting to enable updating of orchard information. | LB  LB/SM  SM  MF  SM |
| **3.Orchard maintenance** | **Fruit trees.** All of the treesappear to have put on growth this year and survived the drought. There has been less obvious aphid damage than in other years. None of the trees appear to need further staking and will be inspected again on Monday after Storm Ellen today. Some of the early George Cave apples were picked by committee members and put out on the picnic table for anyone to take and some visitors have picked apples themselves from the trees. MT reminded members of the harvesting table that has been prepared and noted that the plums, Seabrook’s Red and Dr Harvey apples would be the next to harvest in mid-September. Orchard Friends to be informed when they are ready for picking.  **Maintenance tasks**  Main grass cut with hired motor scythe and strimmers to be done on **Monday 24 August, 9.30am.** Hay to be raked by volunteers on **Friday 28 August at 9.30am.** Orchard Friends to be invited to help.  **Clearance of ditch and mound**: to be added to the annual maintenance tasks for July (before thistles start seeding).  **Use of the mower**: new users to be instructed on-site; PDF copy of mower instructions to be sent to committee members and summary sheet with key instructions to be posted inside the shed.  **Wildlife monitoring:** the wildlife camera had captured images of a badger and fox in the orchard. Check for signs on how the badger is getting into the orchard after the main grass cut. A Pyramidal orchard was noted for the first time. The spread of other meadow plants, such as Betony, Yellow Rattle and Ladies Bedstraw has increased.  **Picnic table:** work to sand it and treat with the preservative used on the shed to be assessed.  **Installing the new bench**: liaise with MT/DE about the temporary fixing that they plan to use for the playing field benches.  **Shed:** finish painting with preservative. Brick plinths for the water butts to sit on to be investigated on Monday.  Alarm to be sourced for the shed.  **Work party**: to be arranged for work on the picnic bench and shed. Orchard Friends to be asked to help.  **Orchard Information Panel:** text amended to include new website address.Quote sought for an aluminium weather proof backing board for the new Orchard Panel. This to be in place for the Fruit Celebration in October. Panel needs to be collected from Victoria Road.  **Orchard entrance.** The edge of the grass ramp leading from the road to the entrance gate has been heavily eroded by vehicles making it difficult to drive into the orchard. The City Council as landlord to be approached about providing suitable kerbing. | MT  LB  MF/SM/LB/AS  LB  SM/LB  MF/SM  MF  LB  MT  MF  MF  LB/BM  MF/SM/LB  SM  MF  LB |
| **4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget** | Balance (at Aug 2020): £696.17  Income: none  Approved new expenditure:  Weather proof mounting for Orchard Information Panel: quote to be sought  Hire of motor scythe: £90  Solar Panel to charge mower: £30.67  Aluminium plaques: £60.00 tbc.  Shed alarm: £20.00 tbc | SM  MF  MF  SM  LB |
| **5. ESORG** | ESORG meetings have been put on hold during COVID-19. | LB |
| **6. Date of next meeting** | **On-line meeting on Friday 30th October at 9.30am** | LB/Clerk |