**Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard**

**Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council**

**Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting**

**24th February 2020 at “Maple View”, Chignal Smealey**

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

Apologies: Geoff Pitts, 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 Nov 2019 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.  **Picnic bench:** to be sanded and shed preservative applied in 2020.  **Ladder**: hooks needed to hang up ladder  **Alarm:** needs to be purchased and fitted in shed.  Other Sub-Committee actions were picked up on the agenda. | MF  MF/SM  MF  MF/BM |
| **2.Orchard events, activities and marketing** | **VE Day 75th Anniversary celebration Saturday 9th May** 14.00 Dedication by the Archdeacon of Chelmsford of the George Cave, apple tree No. 45.  14.15 Celebration of the spring fruit blossom, talk about the importance of insect pollinators  14.30 WW2 "Dig for Victory", talk about the campaign with posters and booklet  14.45 visitors leave the orchard for the Village Hall  Brass plaque to be engraved with the words: “Victory in Europe 75th Anniversary 8th May 2020” and screwed to the oak post next to tree No. 45.  Briefing for the Archdeacon 2 weeks before the event  Thursday 7th May, cut orchard grass, erect bunting on shed  **Mid-Summer and Wildflower Picnic at 3pm, Sunday 12th July 2020**  Discuss details at next meeting.  **Marketing**: Chignal News article to be drafted for April edition to promote VE Day celebrations. | LB  SM/BM  SM  LB  MF/LB/BM  LB  LB |
| **3.Orchard maintenance** | **Fruit trees.** Most of the posts supporting the older trees have been removed. Due to the persistent wet weather this winter, the trees should be inspected to check whether any of them need to be supported using two posts and rubber tree ties.  **Pruning.** MT has pruned about half of the apples and pears. BM has offered to help finish the pruning. It was agreed that at least two people should be present at the orchard when the orchard safety ladder is used. No other ladders should be used in the orchard.  **Mulching and feeding**. Strulch to be topped up and fertiliser applied end of March  **Bird Scarers.** MT has purchased a domestic Bird of Prey kite which needs to be mounted 1.5 meters above the plum trees. If required, the orchard safety ladder should be used to erect the kite with two people present.  **Shed.** New plinths will be made for the butts to sit on. Painting the shed will happen when the wood dries out.  **Bench**. The bench will continue to be stored in the shed during the winter months to preserve it. MF will investigate how to secure the bench in the orchard using wooden sleepers and temporary locks.  **Car parking.** Orchard Friends to be informed that there are 4 car parking spaces available at the entrance to the playing field.  **Orchard Information Panel.** Quote to be sought for a weather proof backing board for the new Orchard Panel. This to be in place for the 9th May VE event. This would allow time for any further revisions, such as the new Parish Council web address.  **Apple Juice.** MT had reported that a local apple grower had sent his crop to be processed by [www.hillholmejuice](http://www.hillholmejuice) However the fruit has to be perfect so may not be appropriate as our orchard trees are not sprayed with insecticides.  **Power Tool Safety Training.** Up to 8 people can receive this on-site certificated training from Writtle University College. Four Orchard volunteers SM/BM/LB/AS wish to attend the training. Four more people who use power tools, (lawn mowers, hedge cutters, strimmers) for community activities, such as the Village Hall Committee and Croquet Club, to be invited to make up the numbers. Training to take place in May. Dates to be canvassed with Writtle University College.  **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. | MF/BM  MT/BM  LB/BM  MT plus other Committee members  MF/BM  MF  LB  SM  LB  MT  LB  SM  LB |
| **4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget** | Balance (at Nov 2019): £896.17  Income: none  Approved new expenditure:  Brass plaque to mark VE 75th Anniversary: £40.00 tbc  Rubber tree ties: £20.00 tbc  Weather proof mounting for Orchard Information Panel: quote to be sought | SM  MF  SM |
| **5. ESORG** | It was agreed that the committee would be represented at one or two ESORG meetings in 2020.  March 30, Windmill, South Hanningfield May 25,  The Swan Inn, Thaxted, or orchard visit July 27, The Swan Inn, Thaxted, or orchard visit September 28, Compasses, Littley Green November 30 tbc | MF/LB/BM/SM |
| **6. Orchard Committee Date** | It was noted that the next full Orchard Committee meeting would be on Monday 1 May at 7pm. The agenda to be agreed at the next meeting. | MF/LB |
| **7. Date of next meeting** | **Friday 1st May 2020, 9.30 at “3 Pitt Cottages, Mashbury Road, Chignal St James** | LB |