

Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard
Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council
On-line Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting
19th February 2021

Present: Parish Cllrs: Lynn Ballard (Committee Chairman and Secretary); Jon Lewis
Co-opted members: Steve Middleditch; Maggie Mills; Sarah Scott; Moira Tarrant
Parish Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.

Agenda items	Action points	Responsible
1.Outstanding actions from 27 November 2020	Shed - alarm to be sourced. Other Sub-Committee actions were picked up on the agenda.	SM
2. New committee member	Maggie Mills was welcomed as a new co-opted member of the Orchard Committee. MM expressed interest in organising activities for children in the orchard and in helping with practical tasks.	MM
3.Orchard events, activities and marketing	Orchard Spring Blossom Celebration Subject to COVID social restrictions, a fund raising event through donations to celebrate plum, pear and apple blossom will be held in the orchard on Sunday 18th April at 3pm . Format to be similar to previous events: traditional country music; children's dances; decorating hoops; guided tour of trees in blossom with information about the importance of pollinators. Visitors will be encouraged to bring their own refreshments and chairs. Parking in the playing field. Orchard Friends to be asked to put the date in their diaries. Detailed arrangements for the event to be finalised at the next orchard committee meeting. Marketing: Chignal News article to be drafted by Jon and Moira for Spring edition, (LB to confirm date with editor) including information on the importance of insect pollinators in fruit production and details of the Blossom Celebration. Steve to produce final copy. Orchard Friends: SM will continue to draft email communications for LB to distribute to Orchard Friends and parish contacts. Website: SM and KM to continue to keep the orchard pages up to date.	SM/LB JL/MT/SM SM/LB SM
4.Orchard maintenance	Fruit trees. Moira was thanked for pruning all of the apple and pear trees. This took 8 hours over 3 to 4 sessions. It was noted that Montfort and Dr Apple trees had put on growth but produced little fruit. Sulphate of Potash to be applied to these trees instead of a balanced fertiliser to encourage flower and fruit production. MM asked whether the bird scarers made by children in previous years had been successful in keeping birds from damaging plum fruit buds. These scarers were retained and stored in the shed but MT reported that research has shown that flying a kite bird of prey is the most effective pigeon deterrent. MT has bought such a kite and will try this method at the end of March subject to wind conditions.	MT LB MT LB/AS

	<p>The fruit trees are planned to be mulched with remaining Strulch, with appropriate fertiliser applied on 23 February.</p> <p>MT has informed SM of tree plaques that need replacing or re-fixing. LB to provide up to date list of tree sponsors to SM and SS.</p> <p>Hedge cutting: Andy and Jon were thanked for cutting the hedge along the northern edge of the orchard. The hedge on the southern edge along the road to be tidied up on 23 February.</p> <p>Picnic table: work to sand it and treat with the preservative used on the shed to be carried out when the wood is dry.</p> <p>Installing the new bench: bench to put in place for the Blossom event in April. Review fixing methods at the next meeting.</p> <p>Shed: contents of shed need to be reorganised to make it easier to remove the ladder. The marquee will be moved into the new village hall storage building when it is completed in the summer.</p> <p>Jon was thanked for installing slabs for the water butts to sit on and it was reported that these are now full. JL to be given a shed key.</p> <p>Information on fruit trees has been laminated and will be pinned on the front of the shed in time for the blossom event in April.</p> <p>Orchard Information Panel: SM has completed the artwork for the orchard and playing field information panels and will provide a specification for the backing board and erecting the posts so that both cost and a contractor can be approved at the Parish Council meeting on 8th March.</p> <p>Orchard entrance. The City Council as landlord was approached in December about providing suitable kerbing. A reminder will be sent.</p> <p>Car park. A pull down bollard with combination lock has been installed at the entrance to the playing field car park. The code is available to orchard committee members on request.</p>	<p>SM LB</p> <p>LB/AS</p> <p>JL</p> <p>JL</p> <p>LB</p> <p>LB MT</p> <p>SM/LB/Clerk</p> <p>LB</p> <p>LB</p>
5 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget	<p><u>Balance (at Feb 2021):</u> £532.01</p> <p><u>Income:</u> donations collected at spring blossom event. Fund raising ideas needed as rent payments now making a significant dent in the orchard budget.</p> <p><u>Approved new expenditure:</u></p> <p>2021/2022 rent payment due by 31 March to City Council: £200</p> <p>Tree sponsorship: review charges for tree sponsorship later this year, (renewals due in spring 2022). Consider providing additional benefits to tree sponsors.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>SS</p>
6. ESORG	<p>Essex Orchards Group (ESORG) now meeting on-line. SM may attend on 22 February to highlight the orchard report in the December edition of Chignal News.</p>	<p>SM</p>
7. Date of next meeting	<p>On-line meeting on Thursday 1st April 2021 at 9.30am</p>	<p>LB/Clerk</p>