

Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard
Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council
Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting
1st November 2021, in the Playing Field Gazebo

Present: Parish Cllrs: Lynn Ballard (Committee Chairman and Secretary); Jon Lewis

Co-opted members: Moira Tarrant; Sarah Scott

Apologies: Steve Middleditch; Maggie Mills

The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.

Agenda items	Action points	Responsible
1.Outstanding actions from 20th August 2021	<p>Production of laminated Activity Sheets for children which could be displayed in a perspex container attached to the shed. To be revisited next summer.</p> <p>Other Sub-Committee actions were picked up on the agenda.</p>	MM
2.Orchard events, activities and marketing	<p>Fruit Celebration and St Nicholas Church Harvest Festival, 17th October 2021. Good attendance: 29. All of the orchard fruit was distributed along with some fruit brought by visitors. Canon Janet Nicholls, Rural Adviser & Agricultural Chaplain, (Chelmsford Diocese) gave a blessing to the orchard and to those who care for it. Donations amounted to £57.86. Moira was thanked for harvesting and presenting the fruit along and for her detailed information on each fruit variety and suggestions for storage and best eating times.</p> <p>Chignal News: photos of the Fruit Celebration provided for November edition. Liaise with CN Editor re: accompanying text.</p> <p>Community Meeting on Climate Change 2 Oct. Moira produced a stunning basket of orchard fruit for display at the event. Wildflower seeds collected from the orchard by Maggie and Moira were given out. Outcomes of the meeting included requests for practical advice on establishing wild flower meadows based on experience in the orchard and suggestion for training volunteers to use an Austrian scythe to carry out the main orchard meadow cut at the end of the summer.</p> <p>Orchard Friends communications: continue to send updates via the orchard email and consider putting some information on the Chignals & Mashbury Community Facebook page as agreed at each Orchard sub-committee meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the City Council is proposing to put weblinks on its Parks and Open Spaces page to recreation facilities in parishes which might include the community orchard.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>LB</p> <p>LB/SS</p> <p>LB/JL</p>
3.Orchard maintenance	<p>Fruit trees. Trees have put on good growth this year largely due to increased rainfall. The newly planted apple trees, (Tun and Pearl) are thriving: fruit was removed to divert energy to promote growth. Chelmsford Wonder apples are the least successful being prone to aphid damage and not providing a good crop. All trees will be fed with an all-purpose fertiliser in early spring and some with sulphate of potash to boost fruit production, e.g., Dr Harvey and Montfort apples. Hay cut from the orchard will be used as mulch around the trees to supplement the mineralised straw already in place.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>Two new apples: Queen and Twinings Pippin to be planted near the bug hotel. The Queen apple could be dedicated to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next June and added to the Queen's Green Canopy webmap.</p> <p>Alitags tree plaques still not available but it was hoped that these would be back in stock by the beginning of next year when the tree sponsorships are renewed. It was agreed that every fruit tree should be offered for sponsorship.</p> <p>Grass management: JL/LB/AS will continue to monitor the grass to see whether a further cut is required before the end of the year. The new grass collector was very useful to complete the main orchard cut. It was agreed that the main orchard meadow cut is best done using a hired power scythe or by hand using Austrian scythes.</p> <p>Hedge cutting: the perimeter hedges on the western and northern sides need to be cut before March. Quotes to be sought from contractors for consideration at the next sub-committee meeting.</p> <p>Orchard wildflowers and wildlife update: JL suggested a survey of fungi growing in the orchard.</p> <p>Orchard Information Panel: MT/LB/SM to liaise re: the location and numbering of the two new apple trees for the orchard plan. New board to be in place by March 2022.</p>	<p>LB/MT</p> <p>SM/SS</p> <p>JL/LB/AS</p> <p>JL</p> <p>JL</p> <p>MT/LB/SM</p>
4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget	<p><u>Balance (at November 2021):</u> £412.01</p> <p><u>Income:</u> £57.86 donations from Fruit Celebration</p> <p><u>Approved new expenditure:</u> 1x Queen apple; 1x Twinings Pippin apple plus delivery £45.00</p> <p>Tree sponsorship: agreed to increase 3 year tree sponsorship to £30. Existing sponsors to be contacted in January. Use tree number as payment reference. Electronic bank payments preferred. Parish Clerk to be consulted on payment dates. Draft sponsorship email to be considered at the next sub-committee meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>LB</p> <p>Clerk/LB/SS</p>
5. ESORG	<p>Interesting ESORG visit to an orchard in High Easter which has a comprehensive collection of Essex fruit varieties. No further meetings planned this year.</p>	<p>LB</p>
6. Date of next meeting	<p>Thursday 6th January 2022 at 10.00am in the Gazebo</p>	<p>LB</p>