

Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard

Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council

Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting

5th January 2022, in the Village Hall

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

Co-opted members: Moira Tarrant; Sarah Scott; Maggie Mills

Apologies: Steve Middleditch

The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.

Agenda items	Action points	Responsible
1.Outstanding actions from 1st November 2021	<p>Production of laminated Activity Sheets for children which could be displayed in a perspex container attached to the shed. To be considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>Other Sub-Committee actions were picked up on the agenda.</p>	MM
2.Orchard events, activities and marketing	<p>Chignal News: end of January deadline for March edition. Article on planting of new apple trees, tree pruning and tree sponsorship, (in consultation with SS). May and July editions to be drafted by JL</p> <p>Orchard Friends communications: SS to look at previous tree sponsorship communications to prepare a draft invitation next week to sponsors to renew for another 3 years. Need to include reasons for increase cost of tree sponsorship: increased fixed costs such as rent and regular maintenance of trees, grassland and hedges; reduction in income from events due to COVID. Deadline for payment by mid-February to allow time to contact those on the waiting list and to advertise any un-sponsored trees before the end of March.</p> <p>Chignals & Mashbury Community Facebook page: SS to liaise with MT about copy and photos on pruning and tree planting.</p>	<p>MT/SS</p> <p>JL</p> <p>SS/LB</p> <p>SS/MT</p>
3.Orchard maintenance	<p>Tree planting: 1x Queen and 1x Twinings Pippin apple tree ordered: expected in January. To be planted near the bug hotel. The Queen apple will be dedicated to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and added to the Queen's Green Canopy webmap. Posts, tree ties and tree guards already purchased. MT to provide mycorrhizal fungi. Order 2x Treegators (Garden Superstore 75litre @ £36.99 incl VAT) to aid in watering the new trees.</p> <p>Feeding: fertiliser to be applied around existing fruit trees.</p> <p>Pruning: apples, pears and quinces to be pruned in January and February.</p> <p>Mulching: volunteers, especially young people, to be invited to help with mulching of soil around trees after winter rains using some of the hay selected from last year's meadow cut.</p> <p>Tree plaques: to be checked against list of sponsors.</p> <p>Grass management: the main orchard meadow cut is best done using a power scythe or by hand using Austrian scythes. As there appears to be little community interest in training to use hand scythes and it is proving increasingly difficult to hire a power scythe, it was agreed to submit an application for a Parish Council grant to purchase a suitable motorised scythe.</p>	<p>LB/MT</p> <p>LB</p> <p>LB</p> <p>MT</p> <p>SS</p> <p>MT</p> <p>SS</p> <p>JL/LB</p>

	<p>Hedge cutting: obtain 2 quotes for cutting western and northern perimeter hedges, approx. 200 ft and removing arisings during Jan/Feb. AS to cut hedge around entrance gate.</p> <p>Orchard information panel: add the new trees to the orchard plan and update on installation for next meeting.</p>	<p>JL AS SM</p>
<p>4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget</p>	<p><u>Balance (at January 2022):</u> £469.87</p> <p><u>Approved new expenditure:</u> Treegators x2 £73.98 incl VAT plus £5.99 delivery. Alitags plaques x50 £62.00 plus postage £4.50. Jig for engraving aluminium plaques: £150 tbc. Perspex leaflet holder around £10</p> <p>Investigate purchase of a suitable motorised scythe in order to prepare a grant application for consideration at the Parish Council meeting on 14th March</p> <p><u>Income:</u> Tree sponsorship of 73 trees @ £30 per tree for 3 years (March 2022 – 2025). On-line bank payments using tree number as payment reference.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk LB SM MM</p> <p>JL/LB</p> <p>SS/LB</p>
<p>5. ESORG</p>	<p>Continue to attend on-line meetings as appropriate.</p>	<p>LB</p>
<p>6. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 11.30am in the Village Hall</p>	<p>LB</p>