

Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard
Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council
Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting
6th July 2022, in the Gazebo

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

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

Apologies: Jon Lewis

The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.

Agenda items	Action points	Responsible
1.Outstanding actions from 27 April 2022	<p>Orchard information panel: add the new trees to the orchard plan and update on installation for next meeting.</p> <p>Other outstanding items were picked up on the agenda.</p>	<p>SM</p>
2.Orchard events, activities and marketing	<p>Queen’s Platinum Jubilee: community picnic moved to village hall due to rain. Good attendance for Queen apple tree dedication.</p> <p>Autumn Fruit Celebration: Harvest Festival at St Nicholas to be confirmed for Sunday 16th October at 11.00. Fruit Celebration event to follow at 12.00 in the orchard.</p> <p>Winter orchard event: research possibilities.</p> <p>Tree sponsorship: excellent response to sponsorship renewal. One remaining tree to be offered to those on the waiting list. SS thanked for managing this process so successfully. Certificates to be printed and distributed. New plaques to be engraved.</p> <p>Chignal News: article on fruit harvest for Sept edition.</p> <p>Orchard Friends communications: wild flowers; main meadow cut and raking; Fruit Celebration. Add photos from MM.</p> <p>Chignals & Mashbury Facebook Page: edited version of Sept Chignal News article.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>SS</p> <p>MT</p> <p>LB</p> <p>SS</p> <p>JL</p>
3.Orchard maintenance	<p>Fruit trees: water butts empty; water brought in containers to fill treegators on newly planted trees. Install wooden post for Queen’s Green Canopy plaque for the Queen apple tree.</p> <p>Fruit thinning: it has taken 3 hours to remove surplus fruit from half of the trees: remainder to be thinned this week. George Cave apples prolific: 5 fruit per truss. Gansel’s Bergamot pear has fruited (a couple of fruits) having never done so before.</p> <p>Fruit harvesting: put out fruit when ripe on the picnic bench and offered at the village Coffee Mornings. Orchard Friends and local residents to be informed.</p> <p>Grass cutting: paths cut 6 July. Main meadow cut to be done by the end of August after orchids have had a chance to set seed. Ask volunteers to rake up hay a week after the main cut. Need to cut back the vegetation on the mound between the shed and gate.</p> <p>A suggestion that the orchard mower could be used to cut areas of the playing field not cut by the contractor, (around gazebo, car park and goal and the croquet lawns) was considered to be inadvisable for several reasons, such as: the orchard machine is not designed to do a fine enough cut for the croquet grass; the mower would have to cross the road which has poor visibility at this point; the</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>AS</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>LB</p> <p>AS/JL/LB</p> <p>MT</p> <p>LB</p> <p>LB/JL</p>

	<p>slope leading from the road to the main entrance gate is very steep with a gully as it meets the road and would present a significant safety hazard to moving the mower across into the playing field and back into the orchard.</p> <p>Wild plants: bee orchids and pyramidal orchids flowering again this year. Moths such as Grass Veneers and Tortrix seen on the grass seeds.</p> <p>Bug Hotel: the bottom has rotted and needs to be replaced. Need wooden blocks drilled with small holes to provide holes for the smaller solitary bees.</p> <p>Orchard Information Panel: review how and when the new panel can be updated.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>JL</p> <p>LB/SM</p>
4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget	<p><u>Balance (at July 2022):</u> £2,102.68</p> <p><u>Approved new expenditure:</u> chain and padlock for scythe up to £80.</p> <p><u>Income:</u> SS to check any outstanding tree sponsorship payments with Parish Clerk. Donation to the orchard from the Gardening Club's plant sale: £79.60.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>LB</p> <p>SS/Clerk</p>
5. ESORG	<p>Continue to attend Essex orchard visits in the summer as appropriate.</p>	<p>LB</p>
6. Date of next meeting	<p>Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 2pm in the Gazebo</p>	<p>LB</p>