**Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard**

**Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council**

 **Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting**

**2nd November 2022, Committee Room, Village Hall**

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

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

**Apologies:** Jon Lewis; Steve Middleditch

**The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.**

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| **Agenda items** | **Action points** | **Responsible** |
| **1.Outstanding actions from 7th Sept 2022**  | Outstanding items were picked up on the agenda. |  |
| **2.Orchard events, activities and marketing** | **Review of the Autumn Fruit Celebration, 16th October:** agreed that the middle Sunday in October at 12.00 following the Harvest Festival at St Nicholas was still the best time for the Fruit Celebration. A good number of people attended with some new faces. MT was thanked for producing several different fruit preserves which helped to swell the donations. MM’s apple buns and mulled juice were very well received too. **Orchard events 2023:** a link with the village Fete on 3rd June should be investigated. MM offered to discuss ideas with the Fete Committee. **Tree sponsorship:** the one remaining tree has been sponsored. SS to liaise with Parish Clerk to reconcile payments with the sponsor list. Only one certificate still needs to be delivered. The plaques need to be checked against the revised tree sponsor list. SS to send sponsor list and MT offered to check the plaques. MT to re-send email to JL re: changing the name plaque for a “Johnny Mount” pear to “Improved Fertility”. All sponsor tree plaques that were not renewed this year should be removed. **Chignal website and new email address:** agreed to accept KM’s kind offer to continue to keep the website up to date with orchard information. New email address agreed: orchard@chignalparish.org.uk. LB to be given access details. Should include message on emails for Orchard Friends to be able to unsubscribe. Messages from old email address to be forwarded when new account goes live. **Promotion:** send invitations to local gardening clubs to visit the orchard at blossom time.**Chignals & Mashbury Facebook Page:** SS to send information about orchard events when appropriate.  | MMSS/Parish ClerkSS/MTJLLB/KMLBSSLBSS |
| **3.Orchard maintenance**  | **Fruit trees:** pruning will start in December. Add general fertiliser and mulch trees with hay from the piles in spring. New Queen apple to be registered on Queen’s Green Canopy website and wooden stand made for the plaque.**Grass cutting:** final grass cut was done before the Fruit Celebration. Agreed to ask JCM to cut hedges next Jan/Feb as they did this year. **Picnic table:** need to inspect surface to determine whether further preservative required. Agreed to submit a CIL grant application to the PC for an additional picnic table, near the existing one. A recycled plastic version was favoured to reduce maintenance. **Bug Hotel**: JL has offered to build a new bug hotel. Agreed to spend up to £50.00 for materials. Should include a back board to prevent small items falling off the shelves. MM will speak with JL about marine ply suppliers. **Orchard Information Panel:** SM is making changes to the artwork. Orchard Committee to approve final version before printing. Contractor need to install the board. **Orchard access:** feedback from the Fruit Celebration was that some visitors had been deterred from attending by the steep slope leading up to the orchard gate. Agreed to investigate construction of some steps to the right-hand side of the gate. LB to consult the City Council and report back.   | MT/LBLB/ASJLMMJL/MMSM/MT/LBLB |
| **4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget** | Balance to be confirmed: in excess of £2,000 Approved new expenditure: hedge cutting, (Feb 2022 was £220.00 ex. VAT). Marine plywood for new bug hotel up to £50.00 Income: Fruit Celebration donations £84.10 | Parish ClerkLBJL |
| **5. Essex Orchards Group**  | Investigate other community orchards in local area and consider possible links. May be more useful than attending ESORG meetings. | All |
| **6. Date of next meeting** | **Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 2pm in the Village Hall Committee Room** | LB |