**Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard**

**Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council**

 **Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting**

**1st March 2023, 3 Pitt Cottages**

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

Co-opted members: Maggie Mills; Moira Tarrant

**Apologies:** Sarah Scott

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

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| **Agenda items** | **Action points** | **Responsible** |
| **1.Outstanding actions from 4th Jan 2023**  | Outstanding items were picked up on the agenda. |  |
| **2.Orchard events, activities and marketing** | Orchard events and activities in 2023 **Village Fete**, **Sat 10th June**. Human Fruit Machine to be considered at Community Group meeting on 6th March. Will be displayed in the playing field not in the orchard. MM to arrange manning of the Fruit Machine and prizes, (e.g., small chocolate bars). Funds raised at the fete to be split 50/50 between the Village Hall Committee and individual stall holders. Promotional flyer to be designed for the orchard to hand out at the stand using PC community laser printer, along with activity cards such as the Orchard Scavenger Hunt. **Local Gardening Clubs:** suggest visits to the orchard during April to see spring blossom.**King’s Coronation:** consider whether to add a plaque to tree 73 when arrangements for Chignal community celebrations confirmed. **Tree sponsorship**: need final sponsorship list and confirmed payments. **New Chignal website**: [https://www.chignalparish.org.uk](https://www.chignalparish.org.uk/). Further training offered to groups. JL and LB to complete inputting of orchard information and images. New Nature Notes webpage could include orchard wildlife/plant updates. **New orchard email address:** orchard@chignalparish.org.uk – address confirmed and will be used when website goes live. **Orchard Friends**: review email list and add unsubscribe message. | MMJL/LB/MMLBSSLB/JLJLSS |
| **3.Orchard maintenance**  | **Fruit trees:** apples, pears and quinces pruned. MT advised by the RHS to thin early fruiting George Cave apple in late May rather than waiting until after the June Drop. It was decided to continue to prune using secateurs from the safety ladder for greater precision cuts rather than purchase a long handled lopper/saw. Wooden post for Queen’s Green Canopy plaque still outstanding. Weeding, mulching and feeding in March when rain forecasted. Extra attention, including watering, to be given to the 1-3 year old trees when they start to leaf up as they are more vulnerable due the drought last summer.**Orchard estate**: the contractor made a good job of the orchard hedge cutting. **Pedestrian access improvements**: an application has been made the Local Highways Panel to “validate” the steps as they would be constructed on the Highway**Picnic table**: agreed to submit a CIL bid to the PC on 13th May for an additional table in recycled plastic with security fixings, e.g.,[Standard Picnic Table | Made from Recycled Plastic (recycledfurniture.co.uk)](https://www.recycledfurniture.co.uk/Picnic-Tables/Standard-Picnic-Table)﻿<https://theessexgroup.co.uk/heavy-duty-picnic-bench.html><https://www.outdoorplaypeople.co.uk/product/essex-picnic-bench/><https://marmaxproducts.co.uk/product-category/tables/picnic-tables/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIxeGw_-ep_AIVTgWLCh2kvgEyEAAYASAAEgKtW_D_BwE>**Wild plants, insects and animals**: Trail Camera to be installed in the orchard to monitor wildlife. **Orchard Information Board**: needs to be installed by the village fete on 10th June. SM to be asked to provide an update before the next meeting. | MTASLBLBLBLBJLSM |
| **4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget** | Orchard Committee current budget balance: £2,175.05Expenditure for the year: £408.66.Income for the year: £1,325.70Outstanding payments: hedge cutting, £288.00 incl VATForecast invoices: annual rent to CCC, March 2023, £200.00 |  |
| **5. Essex Orchards Group**  | ESORG may organise some orchard visits in the summer.The 'Learn to Prune Workshop' on 14th Jan 2023 at Melbourne Park allotments had been useful and contacts were made with the Wilderness Foundation who manage these fruit trees. Contact to be made with the City Council Tree Service re: the Tree Wardens Network and links with other local community orchards. | MMLB |
| **6. Date of next meeting** | **Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 2pm in the Gazebo or 3 Pitt Cottages, (depending on weather).**  | LB |