**Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard**

**Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council**

**Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting**

**10th May 2023, 3 Pitt Cottages**

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

Co-opted members: Maggie Mills; Sarah Scott

**Apologies:** Moira Tarrant

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

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| **Agenda items** | **Action points** | **Responsible** |
| **1.Outstanding actions from 1st March 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 promote the orchard. MM to man the Fruit Machine: winners to receive money prizes. Promotional A5 flyers x 25 for the orchard to give out at the stand using PC community laser printer, signposting to the activity cards in the orchard. LB to draft text for JL to do lay-out and add photos.  **Local Gardening Clubs:** only Broomfield CottageSociety responded to the invitation to visit the orchard. LB took a small BCS group to the orchard during the 3 March Coffee Morning to see the blossom.  Other local groups who may have an interest in visiting the orchard were suggested, e.g., Melbourne Allotments, (MM to provide contact); Newlands Spring Residents; and Chignal Estate Residents. LB to investigate.  **Tree sponsorship**: email final sponsorship list to orchard committee members.  **New community orchards:** following a posting on the Chignal Facebook page, answered by SS, a representative from Pleshey village also came to the Coffee Morning on 3 March to find out how we established and managed our orchard. They will contact LB again when a suitable site has been identified.  Chelmsford CC Tree Warden Network to be revived in the Autumn.  **King’s Coronation:** the sponsor of tree 73 to be consulted about adding a plaque to mark the King’s Coronation.  **New Chignal website**: [https://www.chignalparish.org.uk](https://www.chignalparish.org.uk/). JL and LB to complete inputting of orchard information. SS and JL would be interested in joining a website editorial group.  **New orchard email address:** [orchard@chignalparish.org.uk](mailto:orchard@chignalparish.org.uk) – address confirmed and will be used when website goes live. **Orchard Friends**: review email list and add unsubscribe message when new email account in place. | MM  LB/JL  LB/MM  SS  LB  LB  LB  JL/LB/SS  SS |
| **3.Orchard maintenance** | **Fruit trees:** trees weeded, fertilizer added and soil mulched using cut hay. Good blossom year and no frost damage. Need to assess effectiveness of the bird scarers. Water bags to be refitted to trees 72 and 73.  Queen’s Green Canopy plaque to be fixed into some wood underground by Queen apple tree 72.  **Orchard estate**: AS has cut the grass paths and serviced the small mower and strimmer.  **Pedestrian access improvements**: application made to the Local Highways Panel to install steps by the entrance gate. Review progress with Cllr Mike Steel.  **Picnic tables and bench**: CIL money awarded by the Parish Council on 13th May for an additional six seater picnic table in recycled plastic: now installed by JL and AS. JL has repaired the old wooden table and applied preservative oil to the oak bench.  **Wild plants, insects and animals**: Trail Camera installed in the orchard to monitor wildlife such as badgers and solitary bees.  Wood and hinges to be purchased to construct hedgehog boxes: £60. Bee hotel: now includes blocks of wood drilled with varying sized holes to monitor usage by different species of solitary bees.  **Orchard Information Board**: needs to be installed by the village fete on 10th June. SM to be asked to confirm that he has all of the information required to complete the artwork. | LB/AS  MT  LB  JL  AS  LB  LB  JL  JL  JL  SM/LB |
| **4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget** | Orchard Committee current budget balance: £1,575.34  Outstanding payments: none  Outstanding income: check Trees 5, 18, 27 sponsorship - payment may be outstanding  Forecast invoices: plywood and hinges for hedgehog boxes £60.00; Fete expenses for the Human Fruit Machine £29.07 | SS/Clerk  JL  MM |
| **5. Essex Orchards Group** | Orchards East Forum Community Orchard Conference on June 17th at Great Wymondley, Herts. Noted.  Essex Orchard Group (ESORG) visit on June 5th to a newly orchard in Dedham. Noted. |  |
| **6. Date of next meeting** | **Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 2pm in the Gazebo or 3 Pitt Cottages, (depending on weather).** | LB |