

Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard

Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council

Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting

3rd September 2024, 3 Pitt Cottages

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

Co-opted members: Sandra Bailey (Chignals & Mashbury Community Group), Maggie Mills, Sarah Scott,

Apologies: Moira Tarrant,

The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.

Agenda items	Action points	Responsible
1. Actions from 2 July 2024	Outstanding items were picked up on the agenda.	
2. Orchard events, activities and marketing	<p><u>Orchard events and activities in 2024</u></p> <p>Hay Raking Social, review of event on Monday 2 September. 7 people raked that day. It took 5 hours to complete the raking and clearing up the hay. Wooden rakes were the most effective for gathering the cut grass into piles and muck forks for moving the hay piles. Consider buying additional wooden rakes and muck forks for next year. Could also consider holding the raking on a Saturday which might attract more volunteers.</p> <p>Autumn Fruit Celebration, Village Hall, Saturday 26th October from 2.30pm. LB, SS, MM available to manage the event. SS to open hall at 1.45pm and all to help with putting out chairs and tables.</p> <p>Chignal Community Group to be asked to consider providing refreshments for this event at their meeting on 16th September: coffee, tea, fruit juice and cakes.</p> <p>LB to arrange and man orchard fruit display and to invite residents to bring surplus fruit, vegetables and preserves to share. Fruit labels to be laminated.</p> <p>MM to be responsible for providing other orchard related activities: making bee nests to go into the bug hotel with bamboo canes, (holes no larger than 3mm – 7mm and removing “knuckles”); making mandalas with natural materials; and windfall lobbing.</p> <p>LB to publicise event through parish and Orchard Friends emails and website. Donations invited.</p> <p>Carol Singing, Sunday 15th December. MM to approach the Great Waltham Community Choir. Consider providing hot cinnamon and apple juice, mulled wine, sausage rolls. Cost to be covered by donations. Laminated hymn sheets to be provided. Start time around 4pm. Lighting by lanterns will be required and access via the slope to be supervised to ensure that visitors are safe. Final details to be confirmed at the November meeting.</p> <p><u>Publicity:</u></p> <p>Orchard Friends: continue regular promotion of 2024 events.</p> <p>New parish website: JL/LB to update content. Linda Nelson to be asked to provide training.</p> <p>New branding for Chignal: consider options for producing pop-up banner displays and a promotional leaflet at November meeting.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>SS</p> <p>SB</p> <p>LB</p> <p>MM</p> <p>LB</p> <p>SB/SS</p> <p>JL/LB</p> <p>LB</p>

3.Orchard maintenance	<p>Fruit trees: George Cave, Queen and Seabrooks Red apples harvested plus plums, Golden Transparent and Monarch, with help from volunteers. Distributed at Coffee Mornings and displayed by phone box. Fruit pickers and bags were useful. Other fruit to be harvested when ripe for Oct Coffee Morning and Fruit Celebration.</p> <p>As fruit on some trees has been very limited this year, consider asking casual visitors to look at the white board by the shed to ensure that they only pick one or two fruit from trees that have abundant fruit and are ripe and ready to harvest.</p> <p>Orchard estate: main orchard was scythed and strimmed on 26 and 27 August by AS/JL/LB in 8 hours with raking a week later. Mound needs strimming and bramble removed. Whole estate to be mown before October.</p> <p>Agreed that a temporary sturdy hand rail will be installed by the entrance, only to be used at orchard events, using Met posts sunk in the ground.</p> <p>The shed has been tidied with surplus items removed and hooks put up to improve storage of tools and equipment.</p> <p>The old wooden picnic table is becoming unsafe and needs to be replaced with a recycled plastic table to match the other one, purchased with a CIL grant last year. Grant application to be drafted for the PC meeting in November.</p> <p>Wildlife: evidence of deep trenches made by large and feisty Yellow Necked mice.</p> <p>Orchard information panel: JL thanked for designing and installing the new board.</p> <p>The Queens Green Canopy iron plaque has rusted badly. JL offered to restore it.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>JL/AS</p> <p>JL</p> <p>LB</p> <p>JL</p> <p>JL</p>
4. Orchard Committee Budget	<p>Orchard Committee current budget balance: £1,180.80 at 20th June 2024</p> <p>Current Expenditure: lightweight Darlac shears £32.95</p> <p>Planned Expenditure: £20 village hall hire for Fruit Celebration. £80 est. for 2 or 3 Met Posts for the orchard entrance.</p> <p>Current Income: none.</p> <p>Expected income: £200.00 grant from the 2024 Village Fete to cover the costs of fruit harvesting items. Donations at the Fruit Celebration.</p> <p>Consider 3 year tree sponsorship renewal for Spring 2025 at the November meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>SS</p>
5. Essex Orchards Group	<p>Essex Orchards: Easton Manor Apple Day 15th September. MM to consider a possible visit to the new Pleshey community orchard</p>	<p>MM</p>
6. Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 5th November at 2.30pm at 3 Pitt Cottages</p>	<p>LB</p>