

Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard

Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council

Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting

5th November 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,

Apologies: Sarah Scott

The following matters and actions were discussed and agreed.

Agenda items	Action points	Responsible
1. Actions from 3 Sept 2024	Outstanding items were picked up on the agenda.	
2. Orchard events, activities and marketing	<p><u>Autumn Fruit Celebration, 26th October:</u> review of the event. Despite the poor late season fruit harvest, there were samples of most apples plus 3 boxes of quince available. All of the fruit was distributed plus some Bramley apples kindly donated by Helen Towns. Depending on the 2025 harvest, more surplus fruit from local gardens will be sought. The Community Group did a great job baking cakes and serving refreshments. There were no children at the event but several adults helped to build some rooms for the orchard's bug hotel. Promotion to families with young children to be considered for next year's event.</p> <p>Visitors were generous, donating £86.12.</p> <p><u>Carol Singing, Sunday 15th December, 4pm:</u> MM reported no response from the Great Waltham Community Choir. SB has spoken with several parishioners who sing with the Hope Choir who may be able to lead the singing of around 8 carols. Song sheets to be printed. Investigate local "un-plugged" musicians or try playing backing tracks with Bluetooth. MM/SB to manage the event in conjunction with other members of the Community Group. Mince pies, mulled wine and apple juice to be provided with costs up to £50.00 from the Orchard committee budget. Donations to be invited at the event. SB to bring a 2 ring gas stove to heat the drinks. Cardboard tumblers to be purchased. MM/SB to set up in the morning, including installing the temporary hand rail, returning at 3.30pm to open the playing field, light lanterns and heat drinks</p> <p>Risk Assessment required.</p> <p>Promotional flyer to Hope choir members and Orchard Friends.</p> <p><u>Orchard events in 2025 in association with the Community Group:</u> Coffee in the Orchard, 30th April and 12th June, 10am Village Fete, 7th June Mid-Summer Wildflower Picnic, 21st June, 3pm Hay Raking Social, early September Autumn Fruit Celebration, 2.30pm Sat 11th October, (hall booked)</p> <p><u>Publicity:</u> Orchard Friends: regular promotion of 2025 events. Continue to use the Hotmail email address, pending changes to the new Chignal website. New parish website: support needed to update orchard content. New branding for Chignal: to be agreed at the PC meeting 11th November. Comments re: making cowslip image more distinctive.</p>	<p>LB/MM</p> <p>MM/SB</p> <p>LB SB/LB</p> <p>LB</p> <p>LB</p>

3.Orchard maintenance	<p><u>Fruit trees</u>: the most successful harvest had been the early apples, George Cave and Seabrooks Red and Golden Transparent Plums. The rest of the fruit trees suffered from poor pollination, insect damage and were stressed from a hot dry summer in 2023. Community to be invited to help with winter tree pruning. LB to lead a Gardening Club pruning workshop session on 15th January starting at 10am in the hall and then in the orchard. Consider inviting Orchard Friends to participate. There will be other pruning sessions in Jan/Feb.</p> <p>Dates for weeding and mulching around trees to be announced in February/March.</p> <p><u>Orchard estate</u>: whole estate to be mown before winter and again in early Spring. Hedge cutting to be programmed with contractor before March.</p> <p><u>The Gardening Club talk 20th November</u> by Tony Brown on "The wonder of wild flower meadows" was noted.</p> <p>A CIL bid has been submitted to CPC on 11th Nov to replace the old wooden picnic table. Standard Picnic Table Made from Recycled Plastic (recycledfurniture.co.uk)</p> <p>Wildlife: no update on trail camera footage.</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>All</p> <p>LB/MM</p> <p>AS LB/PC Clerk</p> <p>LB</p> <p>JL</p>
4. Orchard Committee Budget	<p><u>Orchard Committee current budget balance</u>: £1,152.91 at 5th November 2024</p> <p><u>Current Expenditure</u>: None</p> <p><u>Planned Expenditure</u>: up to £50.00 for refreshments at the Carol Singing event. CIL bid for picnic table £690.00 incl VAT</p> <p><u>Current Income</u>: £210 grant from the 2024 Village Fete to cover the costs of fruit harvesting items. £86.12 donations at the Fruit Celebration, (included in the budget balance above)</p> <p><u>Expected income</u>: donations at the Carol Singing event</p> <p><u>Budget forecast</u>: for the next meeting in January, prepare a 3 year budget forecast to assess the amount of income required from tree sponsorship renewal in Spring 2025</p>	<p>PC Clerk</p> <p>LB</p>
5. Essex Orchards Group	<p>The ESORG visit to Audley End's kitchen garden had been useful for networking with orchard experts. Audley End also reported damage from Apple Ermine Moth this year.</p>	<p>LB</p>
6. Date of next meeting	<p>Tuesday 7th January at 2.30pm at 3 Pitt Cottages</p>	<p>LB</p>