**Chignals & Mashbury Community Jubilee Orchard**

**Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council**

 **Orchard Sub-Committee Meeting**

**4th January 2023, 3 Pitt Cottages**

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

Co-opted members: Maggie Mills

**Apologies:** Moira Tarrant; Sarah Scott; Steve Middleditch

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

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| **Agenda items** | **Action points** | **Responsible** |
| **1.Outstanding actions from 2nd Nov 2022**  | Outstanding items were picked up on the agenda. |  |
| **2.Orchard events, activities and marketing** | Orchard events and activities in 2023 Feedback from meeting to plan the **Village Fete** on **Sat 10th June**. Develop ideas for a Human Fruit Machine in the orchard, e.g., <https://youtu.be/B3lR4vFvdmQ>Need clarification on the recipient of funds raised at the fete. Write to local **Gardening Clubs** inviting them to visit the orchard at different seasons: spring blossom; summer wildflowers and autumn fruit harvest time. Offer welcome and tour by an orchard committee member.**Tree sponsorship**: need final update on sponsorship list and confirmed payments. **New Chignal website**: [https://www.chignalparish.org.uk](https://www.chignalparish.org.uk/). Training session for clubs/groups at the VH on 16th Jan at 6.30pm. Kate Middleditch invited to attend on behalf of the orchard committee. JL also attending re: countryside conservation, footpath guide etc.**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.**Orchard Information Board**: needs to be installed by the village fete on 10th June. | MMLBSSKMJLLBSSSM |
| **3.Orchard maintenance**  | **Fruit trees:** pruning of apples and pears continues in dormant season. Make wooden post for Queen’s Green Canopy plaque, Weeding, mulching and feeding in Jan/Feb. Possible work-party.**Orchard estate**: contractor to do hedge cutting in Jan/Feb when ground hard. New boundary fence has been erected by the City Council adjacent to 2 Ivy cottages.**Pedestrian access improvements**: CCC positive about new steps and handrail from the road to right of main gate, subject to seeing detailed plans. Highways need to be consulted and PC to consider funding. **Picnic table**: agreed additional table in hardwood or recycled plastic to reduce maintenance, 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><https://www.bransonleisure.com/product/a-frame-softwood/><https://www.highgatefurniture.co.uk/product/highgate-1-8m-classic-wooden-picnic-table-hg127/><https://www.bransonleisure.com/product/kimpton/>Parish Council to be asked to consider a CIL bid.**Wild plants, insects and animals**: the new bee hotel needs some additional “accommodation” tubes. Consider organising a workshop for children to help by drilling holes in blocks of wood or making egg chambers with bamboo etc.Hedgehog boxes to be built and placed on the edge of the grass piles.  | MMASLBLBLBLB/JLJL/MMJL |
| **4 .Review of the Orchard Committee Budget** | Balance to be confirmed: £2,095.17Approved new expenditure: hedge cutting, (Feb 2022 was £220.00 ex. VAT). Marine plywood for hedgehog boxes £50.00CIL bids for pedestrian steps and picnic table.Income: none.  | Parish ClerkLBJLLB |
| **5. Essex Orchards Group**  | Agreed request for £2.00 contribution to ESORG’s annual subscription to join the Orchard Network (the national orchard body).'Learn to Prune Workshop', 14th Jan 2023 10:00-15:00 at Melbourne Park allotments, Hobart Close, Melbourne. MM to attend to explore networking opportunities.  | LBMM |
| **6. Date of next meeting** | **Wednesday 1st March 2023 at 2pm in the Gazebo or 3 Pitt Cottages, (depending on weather).**  | LB |