

MINUTES
COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 26th April 2017, 7.30pm
Haddenham Parish Council Office

Present : Dr. Benjamin, Mr Proctor, and Mr Smith
Clerk Mrs Gilbert

In the absence of Mr Greaves (Chairman) the meeting was chaired by Mr Proctor (Vice-Chairman)

CO17 56 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr. Greaves and Mrs Rowbotham. No apologies were received from Mr Lyons.

CO17 57 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Proctor declared an interest due to his working connection with Buryhook.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

CO17 58 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2017 were AGREED as a true record and signed.

CO17 59 FINANCES

The balance on the account at year ending 31/03/17 was noted.

CO17 60 ORCHARD DESIGN

(i) Noticeboards.

Mr. Greaves had taken on most of the recent work and there had been many revisions. The design is now finalised. The main board, welcome signs and tree plaques have all now been ordered. Awaiting confirmation from the designer of the delivery date.

Buryhook will need 1 day to install the signs and seating once delivery is confirmed.

An opening ceremony can be arranged in May / June once delivery is known.

(ii) Seating area.

Buryhook have the wood available to make the seats for delivery once the date is confirmed.

CO17 61 ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

Volunteers

There has been a good turn-out for the winter and spring events (11 people).

About 6 people have signed up as regular maintenance volunteers, with a wider pool of 80-90 now on the email list. Most people preferred weekend working parties but it was agreed there should be some Fridays to enable local schools and businesses to be involved.

Agreed there should be one working party per month with the committee members taking turns to lead them: 6th May (DP), 2nd June (GS), 8th July (DG), August may be best to have a Friday and Saturday sometime after mid-month for haymaking as this is a big task (TBC).

Girl Guides have asked if they can help and will need someone to show them around and supervise on 16th May. Suitable tasks for them need to be identified, possibly trimming the hazel hedge or putting down bark around the base of the trees (if some can be sourced).

Work currently needed is mostly weeding and clearing some cow parsley.

Pruning may not be required this year, but if it is Andy Howard has agreed to run a training course which could be an event in Nov/Dec. May be complicated as not all trees require pruning at the same time.

May need a small noticeboard at the orchard site to advertise events.

Parish Council

The PC has now appointed Aspire to carry out the village maintenance which will include the orchard. Aspire have a topper so can be asked to do some cutting. Need to trim around trees first and protect tree plaques.

A tree surgeon has inspected the trees and said no major work is needed. However, there is a lot of ivy growing up the trees at the Mallards Croft end which needs to be carefully cut at the base and has been quoted for.

Chris Bowler had been contacted and asked to quote for repairs to the wychert wall between the orchard and Townsend Green. The Clerk was asked to ensure that the lime used for the render doesn't get into the orchard as it will raise the pH of the soil and may affect the plant growth as a result. The date of any work should avoid events at the orchard.

CO17 62 EVENTS

Around 30 children attended the Easter event with many people from outside the village and visiting family also attending. There was a clash of timing at 11am with the Churches Together service which needs to be avoided next year. Some eggs were kept back and put out as the children were searching which worked better.

Open Gardens – Sunday 25th June, 2pm-6pm suggested:

- picnic from 12 – 1 at the orchard
- 10 minute tours guided by volunteers (maybe on the hour?)
- GS to talk to Graham Oliver regarding arrangements
- Gazebo
- Soft drinks

Music/Plays – the acoustic vibe group has suggested the possibility of using the orchard for one of its regular music evenings. This prompted discussion on setting some ground rules on use of the space and what would and would not be acceptable which resulted in the agreement that an events policy would be needed. The Clerk agreed to investigate and pass on information about holding events in public places.

Apple pressing – will do this again to tie in the National Apple Day on 21st October 2017. Last year an end time was set which significantly over-ran so suggested no end time this year.

The scarecrow festival was successful last year – GS will find out the date and circulate.

An event for older people would be nice – GS will investigate – maybe ask Graham Oliver for advice.

CO17 63 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Publicity is needed for the events, especially the Open Gardens. Suggested a small planning group should meet informally.

CO17 64 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 14th June 2017.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: 14th June 2017