

MINUTES
COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 23rd May 2018, 7.30pm
Haddenham Parish Council Office

Present: Cllr Mr Lyons (DL)
Co-opted members: Dr. Benjamin (SB), Mr Hadder (CH), Mr Proctor (DP), and Mr Smith (GS)
Clerk Ms. Gilbert
No members of the public

CO19 1 ELECTION OF A CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

In the absence of last year's Chair Mr Greaves it was PROPOSED and AGREED that Mr. Proctor would chair this meeting and the election of the Chair was deferred to the next meeting.

CO19 2 ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

The decision was deferred to the next meeting.

CO19 3 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr Greaves (holiday).

CO19 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None.

CO19 5 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2018 were AGREED as a true record and signed.

CO19 6 FINANCES

- (i) The balance on the account at year ending 31st March 2018 was noted.
Two outstanding items of expenditure:
fruit bushes £50-60 reimburse DP and a pump flask reimburse DL £19.99.
- (ii) Review of the budget for future expenditure:
D5 Cox apple will need to be replaced like for like c£30
H5 plum may need to be replaced c£30
J3 damson leaves are curled – need to keep an eye on it.
Small pop-up gazebo for events would be useful.
Need to itemise budget on a spreadsheet – email to come up with ideas (DP/CH)

CO19 7 ORCHARD DESIGN

- (i) Shed
CH had done some research followed by email discussion.
Need to meet as a group one evening and look at the space to agreed location and identify any issues.
Need to agree what goes in it to make sure its big enough. Research suggests planning permission is not needed for a shed in the conservation area, this will be checked with David Truesdale and post meeting note will be added. Meet at the orchard bank holiday 7pm to discuss (ALL)
Clerk's post meeting note - no planning permission required for the shed.
Once shed is agreed can discuss the compost heap (ALL)

- (ii) Traditional benches in the orchard.

It was agreed that additional seating suitable for the less able should be provided on the perimeter of the site, away from the core. There are a couple of suitable locations. The bench selected should have arms for older people. We can approach the people who asked for a memorial bench and could be the same style as already agreed at Church End.

CO19 8 ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

- (i) The draft orchard management plan was deferred to next meeting GS.

- (ii) The orchard inspection reports were reviewed.

The bamboo has been removed. Weeds still need removing around fruit bush trellis.

- (iii) Feedback from the last working party.

Need to keep paths cut with a path up to each tree. People have created a path from the information board to the core, so it was agreed this should be mown as a proper path. Need to keep people off buttercup areas.

The working party was led by DL who reported that a great job was done by Cosine (about 10 people) removing a lot of cow parsley. Last year's management does seem to have helped in the areas concentrated on. It was easy to manage them and worth doing again.

- (iv) Next working party.

Small strip to each tree has been mown but now need to strim wider around each tree.

May be a mower in Jim's workshop – SG to check. Will also need the risk assessment.

Cow parsley is beginning to go to seed – can cut seed heads off or cut down plants. Around the medlar and the damsons could be focussed on.

Dates were circulated ahead of the meeting, the following dates were agreed:

Saturday 16th June – CH will lead GS also available – focus on cow parsley and weeding around tree circles. Re-do the paths. Clean the signs.

Saturday July 7th DP will lead, GS and CH available – same tasks as 16th June.

Hay making – some islands of seeds were left for birds which worked well. Seeds will drop in August and may look a bit messy if left until September. This needs a lot of people. Borrow the auto-scythe again which was very effective. 18th August DP to lead (GS not available). Aspire may be able to help – DP will ask if needed.

Note to include a watering tube when new trees are planted.

CO19 9 EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- (i) A group visited from London of mixed abilities, there were some concerns about the coach dropping off at the Mallards Croft so if this situation arises in future it will need to be made clear that drop off will need to be a short walk away.

- (ii) Schedule and preparation for the next events.

Picnic – not very well attended last year, but doesn't require much organisation and was a nice event.

Advertise on Haddenham.net FB page. Provisional date of 30th June (DP to confirm).

Community Fair September 22nd need to have a stall.

Apple pressing - National Apple Day (Sunday 21st October) – provisionally Sat 20th October (am)

CO19 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wednesday 11th July 2018

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING: The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: 22nd August 2018