



MINUTES
COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 19th June 2019, 7.30pm
Haddenham Parish Council Office

Present : Mr Greaves (Chair), Mr Hadder, Mr Proctor, and Mr Smith

Clerk: Ms. Gilbert

No members of the public.

CO20 1 CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Greaves was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED.

CO20 2 VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. Proctor was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED.

CO20 3 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr Lyons and Dr. Benjamin

CO20 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no requests to participate.

CO20 4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th April 2019 were AGREED as a true record and signed.

CO20 5 FINANCES

- (i) The invoice for the tools has just been received, and with the shed and water butts the total amount to reclaim from the Beer Festival grant is now in. Once the invoice has been entered into the finance system the total will be confirmed. It was agreed there needs to be an inventory for tools and a method of checking they have all been returned after use (DP). DP
It was agreed to send a thank you letter to Browns for the discount on the tools (DG). DG

- (ii) Future expenditure.

Items to add to the wish list: shelves, wheel barrow, buckets, hand shears and some other sundry items. Some smaller items could be funded through the donations received for refreshments at events.

CO20 6 ORCHARD DESIGN

- (i) Progress with the installation of the shed.
Installation is complete, except for the water proofing which is not thought to be necessary as tools will be hung on the walls. An acknowledgement plaque is needed, SG will ask the Beer Festival Committee if there is some standard wording when the grant receipts are sent through. The style of plaque will need to be agreed. SG

- (ii) The memorial bench has arrived and been installed, the donor is pleased with it.

CO20 7 ORCHARD MAINTENANCE

- (i) The selection of tools had been agreed and purchased prior to the meeting.
Some smaller items are still needed, such as hooks to hang the tools, and boxes to store the smaller tools. Wheel barrows are needed for bark chips, compost, and some vegetation so smaller light weight plastic ones should be fine rather than the larger heavy ones used by builders. The committee will agree which one will be best by email, they won't fit in the shed so will need to be tethered behind the shed to an anchor, with maybe some screening (GS). GS
Pump spray bottles for the organic soap spray (Wilko are cheap).
Couple of watering cans.
- (ii) Orchard management plan, has been updated and agreed.
- (iii) Orchard inspection reports and issues arising.
Thank you to Diana who has carried out the monthly inspections
Some broken branches on trees are possibly deliberate, and the broken pieces have now been removed with a clean cut. This was publicised on Haddenham.net.
One tree has had to be re-staked as it was falling over, others will have to be monitored as the weight of fruit may pull them over.
There was some discussion as to whether some of the fruit should be removed from heavily fruiting young trees to encourage more growth of the tree? This will be investigated more by monitoring the growth of those with more fruit vs those with less. Some trees are doing better than others with fruit which may be due to climatic conditions. On balance it was thought that it would be nicer for people to see the orchard producing fruit even if it meant the trees grow a bit slower. DG will ask the orchard designer. A tree survey will be needed. DG
A photographic record of each tree could be kept, one in blossom (May) and one in fruit (August) each year.
There has been some bug infestation and something has been eating the cherries, black fly and possibly a beetle. A spray with organic soap should remove these.
Dog poo continues to be an issue and is being cleared, there was some discussion on encouraging dog owners to clear up in a positive way, which should be a village wide initiative led by dog owners.
- (iv) Maintenance carried out by the Parish Council's contractor.
DP met with Kathy and Kevin from Aspire and it was agreed they will carry out a 2 week cut of the main paths and around the logs, it is hoped this will manage the paths better.
- (v) Last working party.
GS and CH organised and achieved a lot as the day went well. GS will write an item for Haddenham.net to thank to the local business that came down to help and also thank the Beer Festival for the grant for the tools which were used on the day. It will be publicised that volunteers can now help without the need for bringing their own tools. Cow parsley is under control and mainly around the edges and will always need to be managed, it will be better to cut it in the May work party. Friday was also good for some residents who work at weekends. It might be good to have more work parties in May and June as there is a lot to do and continue to include Fridays. The narrow paths will need to continue to be cut on the rota each week.
A mower will be donated via DP and needs tuning (GS) DG
GS
- (vi) Next working party.
July 6th – 9 – 11am ahead of the Beer Festival for weeding, mulching around trees. DP will lead. DP

CO20 8 EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Picnic Sunday 23rd June 12-2pm – BYO food and drink. May need a small gazebo depending on the weather forecast. Will need to be publicised again. DG will organise.

DG

Easter egg hunt went well and will need to be an annual event.

Arts Festival may possibly hold a small event during the Feast in September, with a quartet, drinks and snacks could be served to raise funds. GS to confirm.

GS

CO20 9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th August 2019

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed: _____
Chair

Date: 14th August 2019