



## DRAFT MINUTES

### COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 7.30pm

Held remotely via Zoom

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**Present:** Dr. Benjamin, Mr Hadder, Mr Proctor, and Mr Smith

**Clerk:** Ms. Gilbert

No members of the public attended.

The resignation of Mr Greaves from the committee had been received before the meeting so the Vice Chair, Mr Proctor chaired the meeting.

#### **CO21 25 APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received from Mr. Hoare.

#### **CO21 26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

#### **CO21 27 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were AGREED as a true record and will be signed by Mr Proctor in the PC office after the meeting.

#### **CO21 28 FINANCES**

(i) The balance on the account had not changed from the last meeting.

(ii) Budget for future expenditure.

DP had not had time to price a pop up gazebo, CH offered to do this. **Action CH.**

Additional fruit bushes and trees will need to be costed. **Action DP**

No information has been received back from DG on noticeboard or plaque costs – DP will follow up with him to see if he has done any research. **Action DP**

#### **CO21 29 ORCHARD DESIGN**

Proposal for planting two new trees.

GS has done some research regarding the selection of a Warden Pear and it turns out that the orchard already has a Black Worcester which is the best variety of Warden Pear so an alternative tree will need to be considered. Mulberry are not native but date back to Tudor times so could be still nice to have.

The nursery that the original trees came from could be asked for suggestions and not all Andy Howards original list of suggestions was used, need to check back. **Action DP**

It was agreed that Abbeyfield could suggest and maybe sponsor a tree, they could be given a list of possibilities. **Action GS**

Could also consider an accessible area for Abbeyfield to help maintain, but might need some design assistance with that. Where it could go and how big it could be would be the best starting point. Brainstorm who could be asked to help with design **ALL**

GS left the meeting at this point due to poor connection.

#### **CO21 30 ORCHARD MAINTENANCE**

- (i) New volunteer to carry out regular orchard inspections.  
Not had time to do this yet but will do. **Action DP**
- (ii) Maintenance carried out by the Parish Council's contractor  
None needed so far this year, but would like the main paths and core maintained fortnightly as last year. May need help with the smaller paths if volunteers can't do them.
- (iii) A tree survey was carried out by DP and CH and the results were circulated. Actions recommended as a result were mainly carried out during the survey for efficiency. Should really have been done a bit earlier in the year, and hopefully next year restrictions won't be in place to make meeting easier. There was no significant disease and blossom can be seen forming and should start to come out soon. All left to do is to finish off the staking that is needed **Action DP/CH**
- (iv) Plans for the next work parties which will need to take lockdown regulations into account. Hopefully start work parties can start again after 29<sup>th</sup> March when restrictions will allow groups of 6 to meet outdoors.  
10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> April could hold a rule of 6 work party – will need to weed around trees.  
Fruit bushes – it would be good to invest in bigger plants to start with to give them a better chance as they haven't been very successful so far. May be some spares from allotment plot holders. **Action SG**  
What can we do to encourage more wildlife? Could put some thought in to this for when proper working parties can start again to discuss at next meeting, bug hotels, bird boxes, hedgehog hotels etc **Action ALL**  
A horse has been going through the orchard, DP met them and had a chat with them about it. It was AGREED that horses shouldn't be allowed through the orchard due to the damage caused to the paths.

#### **CO21 31 EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- (i) The correspondence with Abbeyfields about them hosting a series of talks about the orchard with the residents was noted and it was agreed to arrange more in the future. Will catch up with GS after the meeting to decide who presents and when.
- (ii) The Handlebards have circulated a newsletter about this year's performances which they appear to be planning to go ahead with, but there has been no direct contact with them to confirm the date yet. DP will confirm nearer the time. **Action DP.**
- (iii) New proposals for events this year.  
The previous suggestion of hosting a sculpture exhibition in the orchard linked to the

scarecrow festival is a possibility that all were in favour of. Dates of the Scarecrow Festival will be needed and discussion with its organisers would be needed.

**CO21 32 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

26<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ DRAFT \_\_\_\_\_ 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Chair

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