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## **MINUTES**

### **COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 7.30pm  
The meeting was held remotely via Zoom

**Present:** Cllrs Mr Hoare and Mr. Smith  
**Co-opted members:** Mr Hadder and Mr Proctor.  
**Clerk:** Ms. Gilbert  
No members of the public joined the meeting.

#### **CO22 1 CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to appoint Mr. Proctor as Chair of the committee.

#### **CO22 2 VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to appoint Mr. Hadder as Vice-Chair of the committee.

#### **CO22 3 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Dr. Benjamin.

#### **CO22 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **CO22 5 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were AGREED as a true record and signed.

#### **CO22 6 FINANCES**

(i) The balance on the account of £1,836 was noted.

(ii) Budget for future expenditure.

CH - Gazebo 3m x3 m pop-up style was suggested. The one from All Seasons Gazebos at 21kg, waterproof, packs into 1.5m x 0.25 bag. Should fit in the shed £169.99. There is a community initiative to have shared equipment that isn't up and running yet but it may be more appropriate to wait and share something through that scheme.  
Still need to replace a rotten trellis.

## **CO22 7 ORCHARD DESIGN**

Planting two new trees – this was deferred until there is more time to research which trees to select.

There is a potential donation to the community that has been discussed with the Parish Council and could be used to create some raised beds for an accessible area.

## **CO22 8 ORCHARD MAINTENANCE**

(i) Signage to request cyclists to dismount:

There has been a problem with cyclists riding through the orchard, some are knocking the gate at Mallard Croft to enter which could cause damage. Mallard Croft residents are concerned that some cyclists get lost in their cul-de-sac. The orchard path is a permissive route, so as land owners the Parish Council can determine that it is pedestrian access only.

It was AGREED to purchase a small cyclists dismount sign for the gate and to also have an orchard welcome sign at the Mallard Croft entrance. JA / DP to agree design.

(ii) Volunteer to carry out regular orchard inspections:

3 people have now volunteered Vivienne, David G and Penny; they will visit once a month each.

(iii) Maintenance carried out by the Parish Council's contractor hasn't been much needed, only 1 cut has been done. All is fine.

(iv) The work parties schedule thorough to August has been circulated. May leave hay making until after schools return as kids enjoy playing through the paths in the longer grass.

Need to replace one dead hazelnut in the hedge.

The fruit bush area will be weeded at next working party and can then identify what needs replacing, with some bigger plants this time. An alternative frame could be used to improve the area.

We have a Duke of Edinburgh's recruit helping for a few months to gain her volunteering award.

## **CO22 9 EVENTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

(i) The correspondence with Abbey Fields about them hosting a series of talks with the residents about the orchard was noted. GS has already given a talk and they are keen to have more. DP has some good blossom photos and can talk about the staggered season of blossom we have. Another talk could be on the options for tree types to go in so they could help select the next trees. GS to give DP contact details.

(ii) The Handlebards performance scheduled for 2020 is difficult to reschedule as the original date is no longer possible. It's likely it will need to be rescheduled in 2022 if possible.

(iii) It had been agreed via email to submit an entry into the Scarecrow Festival that will run 5-21 June, and a theme will need to be submitted by the end of May. It was agreed to host a scarecrow building day on 5<sup>th</sup> June and help people build a series of scarecrows in the orchard, which would help people who may not have their own garden to enter. Minimal use of plastic and recyclable natural materials should be encouraged. Each scarecrow

should be no more than 3ft tall. May need a back-up plan if there isn't much interest.

- (iv) Proposals for other events this year.  
Jazz Picnic with the Feast Festival and summer picnic if conditions allow will go ahead.

**CO22 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.13pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021