**Pynes Community Orchard Working Group**

Ide Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 13 February 2019 , at 6.30 pm

at The Halt, 1 Station Road, Ide

1. **Present:** Peter Cloke (chairman), Nick Bradley (chairman IPC), Andy Bragg, Mel Liversage (parish clerk), Trevor Gardner, Richard Sharman, Mark Thomas, Phil Willcock.

2. **Apologies** received from Carolyn Tysoe.

3. The draft **minutes** of the meeting held 21 January 2019 were approved for circulation and posting on the website. Action Nick and Mel.

4. W**ater supply and metering**.

No progress just yet. It was agreed that Andy would approach CCs and Richard Parr (as the tenant of Pynes Farm Yard where the water meters are sited), and Robert Lowton as the installer of the current piping to:

 - determine the serial number of the meter for Pynes Victorian Orchard

- find out the reading on the meter

 - and to ask that the stop cock is turned off as we require no water

- confirm what pipes run where

Andy confirmed he s on the case; and will report back to the next meeting.

 Action: Andy

5. **Launch event 29 March 2019.**

After debate, it was agreed to **cancel the launch event** on 29 March 2019, because members felt we should not risk running it without the Option to Purchase Agreement signed. Unexpected delays (despite regular chase-up contacts from NB) at Strutt & Parker, The Commissioners and Farrers lawyers did not give the group comfort that we would receive the Agreement to sign in time for 29 March.

Action: Peter inform Carolyn and Jessica - speaking; and Carol -hall booking

 Nick and Mel to “pull” the announcement planned for Ide Times

 Nick write to S&P and CC to register community concern / non plussed

6. **Organic status of Orchard.**

Andy would like to work towards approval of the orchard as organic, to match and add to the organic schedule for the rest of his farm. It would allow sale of apples to Luscombes at a premium price. West Town Farm’s soil inspection two weeks ago passed for organic status. It would take 20 months minimum from now to achieve. The only downside to being organic is the bureaucratic burden of having to provide recurring, ongoing evidence. We would need to make sure we bought organic tree stock when planting.; or a de-rogation for a particular variety if there was no organic supply available. All were agreed to pursue this target of organic status for the orchard.

 Action: Andy to pursue and report next time.

7. **Prospectus.**

Mark has revised since last time with edited versions of some sections; and we now have an additional section on organisational structure.

 Action: Mark and Nick to meet 6 March 8pm to revise, edit and produce a 6th draft for consideration at next meeting.

**8. 2019 restoration work.**

The ground will need rolling soon.

Agreed we need a simple sign on the gate to identify and name the Orchard. Peter to speak to Chris Bishop re making a sign for the gate.

Agreed that longer term we’ll need a proper notice board to be erected near the entrance. Mark to arrange in due course.

Top gateway entrance needs to be closed.– Andy will advise.

Agreed ideal to put sheep in to keep the grass down – but Andy’s sheep are organic, and until the orchard is scheduled organic, he would have to put different sheep in, or get a derogation.

There is work to do on securing and tidying hedges.

The gateposts at main entrance need replacing on or before next  volunteers’ day Mar 2.

In December 2019 we will plant, say, 50 new trees.

Peter and Andy to agree a programme for the morning working party March 2 (subsequently cancelled due to poor weather)

Action: Andy – rolling.

 Peter –> Chris Bishop re sign

 Mark – longer term notice board plan in due course

 Andy – top gateway

 Peter & Andy meet on site to plan hedge actions

 Peter & Andy – new gateposts

 Andy – ideas for sheep

 Peter & Andy – new trees in December 2019

9. **Next PCOWG meeting:**

**Wednesday 13 March, 2019 at 6.30 pm** . Venue: The Halt, 1 Station Road, Ide.

END

Approved on 13 March 2019

[Minutes PCOWG 13 Feb 2019.docx]