**Pynes Community Orchard Working Group**

Ide Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 7 August 2019 , at 6.00 pm

at The Halt, 1 St Ida’s Close, Ide

**1.** **Present:**

Peter Cloke (chairman), Nick Bradley (chairman IPC), Andy Bragg (licensee), Mel Liversage (Parish Clerk), Trevor Gardner, Phil Willcock and Carolyn Tysoe.

**2**. **Apologies** received from Richard Sharman and Mark Thomas.

**3.** The **draft minutes** of the meeting held 1 May 2019 were approved for circulation and posting on the website. Noted that the date of this meeting had been changed from 26 June to 7 August in the interim due to lack of progress on the Option Agreement. Action Nick and Mel.

4**. Organic status.**

AB reported that Strutt & Parker had signed up to the application for organic status, which is now formally in the Soil Association’s conversion procedure. The earliest we can expect full approval of organic status is 1 January 2021.

**5. Grant application**

NB reported that we had been unsuccessful in our application to TDC Rural Aid Fund for £7,000 towards our start up legal and professional costs.

**6**. **Option Agreement**

We have yet to receive a draft Option Agreement despite further enquiries to S&P and the CCs. In early June we received an amended sales plan, which forms part of the Agreement, which included the dismantled railway strip (0.17 acres) at the north eastern border of the land. The sales plan to which we had agreed in December 2018 had excluded that strip. On checking with Strutt & Parker and the CCs, we were told that this was an error by S&P, and that the CCs were insistent we took on the whole area of land including the strip. The strip is currently in alleged dispute under a possible adverse claim for possessory title by the owner of 78 High Street. However, the Land Registry holds no record of such a claim, and title to the strip is fully registered with the Church Commissioners.

NB therefore wrote to the new rural asset manager at the Church Commissioners, Crawford Mackay (who has replaced Mark Herrod), on 26 July to propose that, as a way of making progress, we purchase the strip for £1 and the rest of the orchard (3.65 acres) at the agreed price per acre. We have received acknowledgement but no response so far to this proposal.

Action:

PC to speak with owner of 78 High Street to confirm position of claim.

NB to contact Foot Anstey for update

**7. Prospectus.**

Mark had sent a paper proof version 8 which was tabled at the meeting, and was very well received. Phil agreed to draft an insertable donation form and circulate for comments. Nick will liaise with Mark about a very few amendments to the text of the proof. Version 9 will be the final version, dated August 2019.

Action:

PW draft an insert form

NB and MT liaise over final v9 proof

**8. Autumn 2019 Programme.**

PC proposed November tree planting, received with enthusiasm and offers of funding from the table. Agreed to order 50 fruit trees, mainly apple, of various variety. PC and AB will liaise to make the order.

PC will enquire of Woodland Trust and Teignbridge DC about grants for tree planting; and of Julian about ecology aspects..

Action:

PC and AB order 50 trees.

PC liaise with JP

**9**. **Next PCOWG meeting:**

**Thursday, 12 September 2019 at 6.00 pm**. Venue: The Halt, 1 St Ida’s Close, Ide.

END

 [Minutes PCOWG 7 August 2019.docx]

Approved at meeting 12 Sept 2019