**Ide Parish Council**

 **Ide Community Orchard Management Group**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Zoom at 8pm on Monday 25 April 2022**

**1. Present**: Peter Cloke (PC, chair), David Howe (DH), Mel Liversage (ML, Parish Clerk), Mark Thomas (MT), Jessica Paine (Jess), Julian Perrett (Julian), Richard Cottle (RC), Trevor Gardner (TG), Phil Willcock (PW), Ann Boyce (AB), Richard Sharman (RS) and Nick Bradley (NB).

**2.** Apologies received from Andy Bragg and Alice Purcell.

**3.** **Minutes** of the meeting held on 7 March 2022 were approved. Action: Mel will post on website

**4. Mapping mature trees**

Julian has mapped and allocated a letter to each mature tree. Action: Julian to send details to NB.

**5. Purchase**

Completion of the purchase and transfer of full freehold possession to Ide Parish Council are set for Friday 29 April.

Update: We paid and took possession at noon on Friday 29 April as planned.

**6. Nestboxes (RHS grant)**

10 dormouse boxes and 3 owl nesting boxes were fitted by Julian in second week in March.

**7. Tree Guards (RHS grant)**

Tree guards were fitted to all the young 2020 trees during second week in March by PC, NB, MT and Julian. We have 4 or 5 spare guards with stakes for future plantings.

**8. Sponsored tree labels (RHS grant)**

Some sponsors have changed their choice of tree.

Action: NB now to order labels which will carry the tree number, type and variety, and sponsor’s name if applicable.

**9. Gates (Viridor and RHS grants)**

Will Bosworth has been awarded the contract to install three gates, with oak posts and galvanised fittings. The entrance gate will be heritage style with curved heel. The gate at the south west corner, and the one across the track leading under the railway bridge halfway along the northern boundary, will be plain 5 bar gates. Update: Will started work on the gates on 30 April.

Action: NB submit receipted invoice to Viridor once work complete.

**10. Dog waste bin (RHS grant)**

The order for one plastic red Glasdon dog waste bin with metal liner bin, bag dispenser and 1,000 bags, and free standing post and fixing system, is delayed. Anticipated arrival 1 May.

Action: NB to install when it arrives.

**11. Grass.**

PC reported that the planned mob grazing of sheep from Westown Farm had not happened, to protect the fresh shoots of the young trees; but that Michael from Westown was able to come with tractor and mower to cut an all over light trim, and cut the paths and picnic area more closely.

RC and Julian advised that if we ca n get 2 cuts, to do them now and in late August; if can only get one, then do it in late July.

Update: Michael was unable to come as planned in the week. But James Romain came to the rescue on Friday and mowed the paths and picnic area.

Action: picnic area will need raking to remove cuttings and allow soft grass to grow through.

Action: PC will construct a plan for grass management for rest of this season

Action: Julian will investigate a hay cut

**12. Rules for Use of the Orchard**

A green laminated notice board has been made and will be attached to the gate when installed.

It’s titled “Guidelines for Use”.

Action: NB to attach to new entrance gate

**13. Hedge trimming**

PC reported that he is still waiting for Stuart Brooking to quote for two cuts per year of the hedge along the St Ida’s Close border. PC expects a figure IRO £150.

Action: PC press Stuart for a quote and dates

**14. Picnic tables (Viridor grant)**

PC reported that he and NB had assembled the 7 heavy duty commercial grade (40mm thick timber) pressure treated picnic tables during the 3rd week of April. They are now ready to be moved into position. Update: On Saturday 30 April 5pm a working party, assisted by deus ex machina James Romain with Ford Ranger and trailer, placed the tables in position:

**15. Fund raising**

RS confirmed that Police Dog Hogan (James Studholme’s band) have committed to a fund raising gig on 6, 7 or 8 June 2023, at Westown Farm. They will need to retain certain funds for expenses and equipment hire; but will donate the balance of takings, plus some takings from the cider sponsors, to our joint project fund. We might expect to sell 200 tickets, at say £20 a ticket. James S has discussed it with Andy Bragg, who is happy. Show of Hands, a local band, ay also appear. RS is happy to take the lead in organising, and liaising with James, and with Sarah and Grace at Westown.

Action:

- RS to contact Westown Farm to make provisional booking for a concert on June 6, 7 or 8, 2023.
- RS to liaise with James Studholme on setting up the event
- RS to report on progress at next meeting.

**16. Shed (RHS grant)**

NB will now order the storage shed. Action: NB order shed

**17. Grand Opening Ceremony Sunday 5 June 2022, 12 noon**

MT kindly agreed to act as Master of Ceremonies; and will liaise with PC and NB about inviting other residents, school children, art group and others; and plan a programme for the day.

AB emphasised the importance and value of getting as many children as possible, as soon as possible, involved in the development and wildlife of the orchard - to get acquainted with what is there.

Action: MT consult about programme, then progress plans for the day w PC

**18.** Date of next meeting: **Monday 16 May 2022, 8pm: venue or Zoom TBA.**

END - NCAB 1 5 2022 v2

Approved 16 5 22