

Ide Parish Council

Ide Community Orchard Management Group

Draft minutes of a meeting held on Zoom at 8pm on Monday 3 October, 2022

1. Present: Peter Cloke (PC, chair), Richard Cottle (RC), Jess Paine (JeP), David Howe, Richard Sharman (RS), Julian Perrett (JuP), Mark Thomas (MT), Andy Bragg (AB) and Nick Bradley (NB).

2. Apologies received from Mel Liversage and Phil Willcock.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2022 were approved, with one amendment (item 11 – should read £25 a ticket)

Action: Mel will post on website

4. Mapping mature trees

Nick and Julian have walked the orchard together and identified each mature tree, and allocated each a letter. Julian has to re-check his records and will complete this week.

Action: Julian to send details on map aerial photo to NB this week.

5. Grass.

Julian reported that he had decided not to do an August cut because of the drought. The rides do not need re-mowing, as pedestrian activity is keeping them demarcated.

Action: PC will ask Mike Radford (through AB) to make an allover spring cut next year.

6. Hedge trimming

6.1 Stuart Brooking has quoted £300 per cut for hedge trimming along St Ida's Close, two cuts per year. But new resident Kyle has done an initial side trim along the Close.

Action: PC will meet SB next week to ask him to do an October cut of the top.

6.2 For hedges inside the orchard, PC has arranged with Mike Radford via AB to make a cut in October or November.

Action: PC liaise with AB and Mike to make this inside cut of hedges.

7. Fund raising gig for Orchard running costs

7.1 RS reported that the date for the Police Dog Hogan gig is now confirmed as Friday **7 July 2023**. RS estimates that up front costs for staging, lighting, hire of the venue and food will amount to approx. £2,000. This is against a projected income from ticket sales of c.£6,500.

7.2 RS kindly agreed to underwrite all the upfront costs; and the meeting agreed that he should be re-imbursed for such expenses, on the condition that the income from ticket sales resulted in an overall profit being made on the event after reimbursement of those expenses.

Action: RS will underwrite the up front costs for staging the event.

7.3 NB said that the Parish Council was not in a position to pay for, guarantee or underwrite the expenses of the event; and could not put its finances at risk in the event of failure or cancellation of the event.

7.4 RS undertook to take out insurance against cancellation following a suggestion from DH.

Action: RS will take out insurance against cancellation

7.5 RS intends to convene a small organising committee to see the project through, under the main Orchard group's guidance. He has approached Cheryl Haddy and Mark Thomas in this regard; and will call a meeting in the next few weeks.

Action: RS to convene organising committee meeting.

Action: RS continue to liaise with James Studholme and Andy Bragg

Action: RS report on progress to next meeting.

8. Shed (RHS grant)

Only doors now left to fit.

Action: NB fit the doors.

9. Friends of the Orchard. MT reported that the Parish Council had welcomed Rose Saunders' idea; and agreed that spring 2023 would be an ideal time to launch.

Action: PC to liaise with Rose

10. Apple picking.

10.1 PC and MT reported that the first Sunday's picking two weeks ago had been well attended; while nobody had turned up on 2 October. Andy Bragg reported similar pattern on his open orchard days.

10.2 PC had arranged for elderly residents to receive bags of apples from the orchard.

10.3 Agreed that next autumn we will make plans to make best use of the fruit.

11. Winter programme

11.1 In addition to hedge cutting and mowing as above, PC will ask Mike Mole to review winter pruning.

11.2 Julian will make a check of the bird boxes.

11.3 PC will buy daffodil bulbs for planting in the orchard.

11.4 NB suggested we run working parties on the first Sunday morning of each month for the next five months Nov through March. The mature trees in the south east corner are overgrown, choked and need pruning with undergrowth clearance - ideal task for working party.

Action: PC and MT publicize working party Sundays: 6 Nov, 4 December, 1 January, 4 Feb, 4 March.

11.5 January is wassailing month. Lily Whittle and Kate Morley have expressed interest in running a wassail.

Action: NB will contact Lily and Kate.

11.6 R Cottle has wild flower seed to sow – will need some bare earth. Agree do this on Sunday 4 Dec.

12. Funds

Given the pressing need for initial set up activities on Weir Meadow, and the prospect of a useful income from the music gig for the Orchard in July 2023, NB will propose to the Parish Council that the £16.5k that was donated to be spent on either Weir Meadow or the Orchard should be allocated so as to leave enough to provide for at least one year's running costs of the orchard, in region of £1,500, with the balance being available for Weir Meadow.

Action: NB seek approval from IPC on 12 October.

13. Date of next meeting: Monday 21 November, 2022, 8pm by Zoom.

END - NCAB 5 10 22