

Ide Parish Council

Ide Community Orchard Management Group

Minutes of a meeting held on Zoom at 7.30pm on Monday 20 March, 2023

1. Present: Peter Cloke (PC, chair), Richard Sharman (RS), Julian Perrett (JP), Phil Willcock (PW), Mel Liversage (ML) and Nick Bradley (NB).

2. Apologies received from David Howe, Richard Cottle and Mark Thomas.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2023 were approved.

Action: Mel will post on website

4. Actions from last meeting

4.1 Christian pruned young trees with PC

4.2 PC has replaced four dead trees in their previous locations.

4.3 JP has inspected owl and dormouse boxes; found a squirrel in one and a woodmouse in another.

4.4 Two huge bags of wood mulch have been delivered.

5. New actions from discussion

5.1 Action: NB to order new tree labels for four new trees.

5.2 Action: NB & PC to inspect other frail trees for possible replacement.

5.3 Action: PC will spray bases of trees with grass killer when weather settled, before mulching.

5.4 Action: PC will contact Michael Radford to arrange next grass cut.

6. Biodiversity Net Gain

JP explained the BNG scheme. Every development site in England will be assessed for its biodiversity value. The law now demands every site must end up with at least 10% improvement in biodiversity – “put back better”. If you start with a score of 10, you must finish with a score of 11. Many sites, however, will fail. To comply, they can buy Biodiversity points from other sites, like our orchard, which can show a BNG within the recent past. With better grass and tree planting, we can accrue biodiversity units. We have until November 2023 (start or end of Nov) to sell our units, then they go out of date. They are worth more in Teignbridge as it's our own LA. JP thinks we would get the maximum number of units. Each unit is worth some thousands of pounds. Problem: scheme not up and running yet, but we only have till November.

Action: JP to act quickly. He'll start with Devon County, then approach a developer, and will report within two weeks by email to the group. NB to contact Julian then.

7. July 8 Police Dog Hogan concert

RS confirmed that plans are going ahead and that the band is booked. Details for catering yet to be worked out. We've yet to see written confirmation that the bands are booked.

Action: NB to check with Rachel Herbert at IPC meeting on 22 3 23.

8. Next Community volunteer day

The next community volunteer day will be on 14 May. PC hopes to engage staff and pupils of Ide School.

9. Finance

PW reported that we still owe the Weir Meadow fund £1500. Have £3,600 balance currently. Concert profits still to come. Finances sound.

10. Date of next meeting: Monday 15 May, 2023 at 7.30 pm by Zoom.

END - NCAB 27 3 23
Approved 18 June 2023