

IDE PARISH COUNCIL
Ide Community Orchard Management Group

Minutes of the meeting of the Ide Community Orchard Management Group held on Sunday 18 June 2023 in the Community Orchard.

Present: Nick Bradley (NB), Andy Bragg (AB), Richard Cottle (RC), Julian Perrett (JP), Jessica Paine (JLP), Mark Thomas (MT) (Chair) and Phil Willcock (PW).

In attendance: James Romain (JR)

		Action
	Opening Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the tragic death of Peter Cloke, the Management Group expressed their sincere condolences to his family and friends; and formally recognised his significant contribution in successfully acquiring Ide Community Orchard for future generations. 	
1.0	Apologies	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> apologies were received from Mel Liversage (ML), Alice Purcell (AP) and Richard Sharman (RS). 	
2.0	Minutes of the meeting of the Ide Community Orchard Management Group held on 20 March 2023	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Management Group met informally on 5 June 2023; the meeting was not formally recorded. 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 were an accurate record; the minutes to be published on the Ide Parish Council website. 	ML
3.0	Confirmation of new chair and vice chair	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MT and JP would take on joint responsibility as Chairs; each will chair 6 consecutive meetings and alternate thereafter. 	
4.0	Allocation of current tasks	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the cost of grass cutting at approximately £100 should be borne from the funds held for the Orchard; Stuart Brooking would continue to cut the lower hedge and would be approached at the appropriate time; going forward the ideal solution would be to bale the cut grass; however, it was noted this would not be possible this year and following the recent cut by Mike Radford; collection of the cuttings from the recent cut should be investigated; paths to be flailed twice yearly by JR; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the management of growth around the trees would be managed independently of the main cuts; Hemlock and other invasive plants that may cause harm from contact should be removed and disposed of in bags to avoid spreading; a written management plan would be useful as a document to publish and detail responsibilities; advice will be needed to enable the group to prepare for a hay cut at the next opportunity; 	JP
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Town Farm to arrange an invoice for the recent cut Speak to Mike Radford about raking and collecting the current grass cuttings Hemlock to be cleared and bagged for disposal Mike Radford to be asked to advise on what would be required for a hay cut next summer. 	AB AB JP AB
5.0	Website Proposal	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the item was noted and agreed to carry forward to the next meeting for further discussion and consideration. 	ML
6.0	Storage of tools in the Orchard Shed	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access to the shed was previously not possible due to overgrowth; some additional equipment would need to be purchased with watering cans the most pressing item for the summer months; Ide Parish Council owns an electric strimmer which is currently in storage; there are funds still available from the RHS Grant which can be utilised for tools 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the shed would be checked whilst leaving the Orchard. <p><i>Access was checked from a distance by NB and JLP when leaving. There are nettles blocking the door which will require removal.</i></p>	MT
7.0	Levelling of Picnic Benches	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the location of the benches was discussed and there was a consensus that all of the benches required levelling to a degree; the main area for concern over the summer was the top area with 3 benches. during the early planning days, it was originally proposed that this top area would be a family picnic area and therefore this area should be prioritised for the summer; levelling individual benches would be easier than digging out and levelling an entire area; a small 1.5tonne digger will need to be hired and work could be undertaken by JR or by Will Bosworth subject to his availability; to progress the levelling of the top corner, the location of each bench would need to be marked out; mulch would need to be laid after to 	

	suppress re-growth; there is approximately 1 dumpty bag of mulch located by the gateway and more would need to be obtained; strimming of overgrowth in the area would be useful before works are undertaken; there is a surplus of mulch at West Town Farm.	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prices for the weekend hire of a 1.5tonne digger to be obtained and circulated; strimming of overgrowth and marking of location of benches to be completed on Wednesday 21 June 2023 from 18:00 notices to be placed on the gateway and to mark off the area from the public to advise the works are taking place; at least two volunteers would be needed over the weekend to help with moving of the benches mulch to be organised 	<p>JR</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>AB</p>
8.0	Plans for Autumn harvesting and juicing facilities	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the official Apple Day is Monday 25 September 2023; it would be good to coincide an event with the start of half term and promote to the village community; a press would need to be hired or obtained from Orchard Link and signage would be needed for the event. a generator or electricity supply would need to be available for the apple press 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an Apple Juicing event would be held on Sunday 22 October 2023 Orchard Link would be approached with the view to hiring a press West Town Farm signage writer would be approached about making some signs that could be used for future Apple Juicing events 	<p>NB</p> <p>AB</p>
9.0	Plans for an interpretation board	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weir Meadow are in the process of designing a board at an estimated cost of £1,000-£1,500; there was a preference for natural materials in keeping with the feel of the Orchard. 	
10.0	ITEMS FROM LAST MINUTES TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD	
11.0	Addition tree labels and checking on the conditions of the frailer trees	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further information of the types of apples would be advantageous on labels so visitors knew if the apples are for cooking or eating; The newly planted trees already have labels but the type of apple (cooking or eating) is not referenced; it would be difficult to change these; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New labels could include reference to the type of apple though this only really applies to the old trees and identification of these has not yet been completely finalised. 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the type of tree is known the label with the type of apple will be added 	NB
12.0	Biodiversity Net Gain	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation that requires all new developments to provide an additional 10% Biodiversity Net Gain comes into force from November 2023; this creates an opportunity for green spaces with Biodiversity Units to potentially be purchased by developers within a Local Authority to meet the planning requirements. This is an unknown market currently as the legislation is not yet current. the enhancements made to Ide Community Orchard as a green site has resulted in the land holding 6 Biodiversity Units. This may be worth between £10,000 - £25,000 per unit. 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if an opportunity arises for the sale of the Biodiversity Units held by the Ide Community Orchard approval would be sought from Ide Parish Council. 	JP & NB
13.0	Update on Police Dog Hogan Concert on 8 July 2023	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 275 tickets had been sold and there were a very small number of tickets remaining for the event; the event is currently estimated to generate £6,000 for the Community Orchard. parking in the event of wet weather at West Town Farm could pose an issue and that ideally all local attendees should be encouraged to walk. 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> liaise with Cheryl Haddy or Rachel Herbert about notifying ticket holders of the limited parking in the event of wet weather. 	AB
14.0	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>Monday 17 July 2023 at 19:00 in the Ide Community Orchard</p> <p>In the event of wet weather, the venue would be changed to 1 Station Road, Ide.</p>	