

IDE PARISH COUNCIL
Ide Community Orchard Management Group

Minutes of the meeting of the Ide Community Orchard Management Group held on Monday 17 July 2023 in the Community Orchard.

Present: Nick Bradley (NB), Richard Cottle (RC), Mel Liversage (ML), Julian Perrett (JP), Jessica Paine (JLP) and Mark Thomas (MT) (Chair).

		Action
1.1	Opening Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alice Purcell will unfortunately be stepping down from the Management Group due to other commitments, Phil Wilcock will continue to act as Treasurer/Finance Officer though will not attend meetings. 	
1.2	Apologies	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> apologies were received from Alice Purcell (AP), Phil Wilcock (PW), Andy Bragg (AB), James Romain (JR) and Richard Sharman (RS). 	
1.3	Declarations of interest	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
1.4	Minutes of the meeting of the Ide Community Orchard Management Group held on 18 June 2023	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to remove “and BBQ” from item 7.0 of the draft minutes. 	JLP
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> subject to the above amendment the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2023 were an accurate record; the revised minutes to be published on the Ide Parish Council website. 	ML
1.5	Actions Arising	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 & 12.1 - A documented Management Plan is required to successfully register the site for Biodiversity Units with the Local Authority. A plan to be brought to the next meeting as a recommendation to Ide PC. 4.3 & 4.5 - It is not possible for the current contractor to rake this year’s cuttings or to cut for hay going forward. 7.1-7.5 Planned bench levelling on 15th July was postponed due to adverse weather conditions. 	JP
2.1	Feedback from Policy Dog Hogan Concert	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NB had contacted the event organisers, bands and West Town Farm to thank everyone for their efforts for an excellent event and evening. Monies from the event are expected into the bank on 21st July. Profits are anticipated to be approx. £4k. The event was sold out with ticket sales generating. 	
2.2	Update on bench levelling works	

	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levelling works have been rescheduled to 22nd following adverse weather conditions on the previous weekend. • Thanks to JR for organising the hire of a digger and for the planned work to level the benches. • Risk Assessment has been completed and to be signed by the Chair of IPC before the works commence. Signed copy to be filed with ML as IPC Clerk. 	NB & JLP
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raking of current year grass cuttings was impractical manually and instead they would be left to mulch down. Further thought and investigation is needed to hire smaller machinery to enable a hay cut next summer. • A Volunteer Day would be organised for 30th July to oil benches and lay mulch. 	RC MT
3.1	Receipts and payments summary to 30 June 2023	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PW is to step down from the ICOMG with immediate effect, however, will continue to act as Treasurer/Finance Officer. 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipts and payments summary to remain a standing item on the agenda for future meetings 	JLP
4.1	Orchard website proposal and refresh	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of options to consider including reinstatement of “Green Spaces for Ide” or a new “Community Spaces” page. • Changes to Ide Community Orchard webpages may come as a result of standardisation of IPC website. 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The website would continue on the current basis for the time being. 	
4.2	Tools and Storage	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to NB for clearing the entrance to the storage shed. • Priority items required included strimmer, rakes and watering cans. • Consideration was given to an electric strimmer, however, the general view was that these are notably heavier due to the lithium battery pack and charging could be an issue. Alternative low carbon fuel, e.g. Aspen, could be a suitable alternative to 2-stroke, and is very environmentally friendly. 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strimmer should be purchased utilising some of the profits from the Police Dog Hogan concert. • Recommendation to be made on make and model of suitable strimmer to be purchased. 	JLP
4.3	Plans for Autumn harvesting and juicing facilities	
	<p>Noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple press has been booked and will require collection. A trailer will be needed to transport it. There is a training video which would be beneficial for all to watch. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further thought will be needed on the most practical and suitable location for the press. • A generator or electricity supply as well as mains water would need to be available for the apple press 	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate training video to all ICOMG members • Include Autumn Harvest/Apple Day as agenda item for next meeting 	<p>NB JLP</p>
5.1	Any other business	
	<p>Agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only trees purchased by ICOMG are to be planted in the Orchard. The Management Group would be open to suggestions for other orchard trees and not just apples. • Further investigation into Nest Box cameras through Orchard Link. Proposal to be put to the group for considerations and agreement. 	
14.0	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 6 September 2023 at 19:00 . Venue - 1 Station Road, Ide.</p>	