

IDE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ide Community Orchard Management Group, Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 1 Station Road, Ide

Apologies from Richard C, Richard S, Julian & Andy.

In attendance: Mark, Nick, James & Mel

No interests declared.

Minutes of the last meeting approved.

Actions arising from last meeting:

Nestbox camera purchased. We are hoping to get it in position over the next few weeks.

Apple Day:

We had a good chat about Apple Day which we agreed had been a great success. We may think about charging people a small amount for juice next year. We might also move the event to the afternoon and offer more food options. We discussed buying a pasteuriser and possibly coming to an arrangement with Ide Community Shop to sell the juice. Nick will investigate costs and report to the group.

We also discussed the importance of getting the apples washed and will look to do that in the morning of our Apple Day. We might also look at moving the date of it away from similar events being held at West Town Farm and Alphington.

Management Plan:

Julian is hoping to get the Plan to Ide Parish Council in time for consideration at the next PC meeting ie. to Mel by 15/11/23.

Christmas in the Orchard:

It was agreed that we would hold a 'Christmas in the Orchard' event on Saturday December 2nd. We will decorate a tree at the next working party (see next item) and have a 'lights switch on' event. We hope to have mulled cider and apple juice on offer and hopefully some food options too. MT to approach Lilly Ballard to see if she might sing; We will also have a few carols. If you are able to help out, that would be great - more details to follow.

Working Parties:

The next Working Party is Sunday November 26th. We will tackle some overgrown parts of the orchard, do some pruning and decorate a tree. We will encourage families to bring along unwanted decorations and also provide some drinks and cake to make it feel more like an occasion. We will run it 1000-1300. MT to advertise on FB.

Financial Performance:

The accounts were noted and thanks to Phil for his work on this.

Any other business:

It was noted that there was a tree in the Orchard with a small tribute on which seems to have been placed there independently of Ide Community Orchard. We will endeavour to get in touch with the family so the tree can be properly theirs.

We discussed when to cut the grass and agreed that we will aim to get it cut again in the Spring.

We will also investigate hedge laying options and separately, have begun making some tentative enquiries about some permanent display boards, telling the story of the Orchard etc.

The new signage on the gate was welcomed - thanks to Nick for sorting this.

Date of the next meeting:

We will have our next meeting on Wednesday, January 24th, at 1900. The venue - unless you hear otherwise - will be 1 Station Road.

MT / 3/11/23 Approved 24 Jan 2024