

IDE PARISH COUNCIL

Approved minutes of a MEETING OF IDE COMMUNITY ORCHARD MANAGEMENT GROUP. WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY 2024 at 1 Station Road, 8pm

In attendance: Mel Liversage, Nick Bradley, Julian Burton-Perrett, Mark Thomas.

Apologies: Richard Cottle, Richard Sharman, Andy Bragg, James Romain.

1: **Minutes of the last meeting.**

These were approved.

2: **Chair of the Group.**

It was agreed that MT would continue as Chair of the Group (we had initially agreed that it would be for 6 months).

3: **Ide Community Orchard Management Plan.**

We had a wide ranging discussion on the Plan produced by JBP. It was agreed that we would explore accreditation through a covenant through the District Council rather than the Environment Bank as this will be less restrictive and perhaps give us greater financial independence. This is to be explored as it seems the details around ratification are as yet unclear.

JBP will also produce a more concise Management Plan for us to use (as opposed to this plan which is for Biodiversity Net Gain).

4: **Signage.**

We discussed putting some signage in the Orchard - telling the story of the Orchard, sharing our vision etc. MT has been in touch with a signage company which has supplied a quote. They have sent over some quotes which were shared with the meeting. The ballpark figure of £500.00 was considered acceptable. It was also thought that this might be a suitable use of the money from the Cloke family.

5: **Wassail.**

Watch out for a separate note about this.

6: **Working Parties, events etc.**

We will hold our next Working Party on Sunday 3rd March where we will look at doing some pruning. NB is attending a course this weekend.

We also agreed to host a Blossom Breakfast on Sunday 19th May. This will take the form of a general invitation to come up to the Orchard, watch the sun come up, enjoy a walk around and admire the blossom - and have a cup of tea and other breakfasty things!

There will be other events over the year.

7: Any other business.

We discussed bringing in new members to the group. A few people have been identified.

ML also noted that hedge cutting on the trees going up the hill (on the road side) will be carried out by Highline on behalf of the National Grid on 27th Feb.

8: The date of our next meeting will be **Tuesday, 12th March 2024, 7pm at 1 Station Road.**

MT 26 Jan 2024

Approved 12 March 2024