**Ide Community Orchard Management Group Meeting, Monday July 8th, 2024.**

1 Station Road, Ide, 7.00pm (It was meant to be in the Orchard but bad weather forced the change of venue).

In attendance: Sue Cloke, Mel Liversage, Nick Bradley, Richard Cottle, James Romain, Patrick Irwin and Mark Thomas (Chair).

1: Apologies: Andy Bragg.

2: The minutes of the last meeting were approved, although correct spelling of Mel’s surname is noted!

3: We discussed the resignation of Julian Perrett. MT will ask Julian if he can tell us where the dormice boxes are and we will look to get a qualified ecologist in to check them. (*Note: this email has now been sen*t).

Julian had also been working on a Management Plan. We will look to see what Management Plans from Community Orchards are like to see how we may be able to customise them. NB to begin this process.

We will also look to develop a smaller plan for ourselves, plotting the year.

4: The grass really needs to be cut! MT is pursuing a quote from Sam Burdick and JR will also check in with a group which has some grass cutting locally. We still hope to cut the grass just once this year, with as much of it as possible taken away. It was agreed that although cutting may prove comparatively expensive, it was money which would be well spent.

Also, JR, RC and PI have agreed to cut the paths and strim around the benches within the next couple of weeks.

5: Mark and James have made some progress on the Information Boards. MT, JR and RC will arrange a meeting to make further progress (*note: this will take place Mon 15th July*).

6: Finances are in a good place. There was an understanding that spending the money we have on things like grass cutting was an appropriate use of our incomes. JR will also approach Simon about putting in a hedge along the far side. This would be a great addition to the Orchard - improving the view, letting more light onto the trees on the far side and improving the variety of plants.

7: We have a number of events coming up - Apple Day on Saturday October 19th; Apple Picking on Sunday October 13th. We will also plan a bulb planting event for November.

Our next meeting will be Monday 9th, September, 7pm - hopefully in Ide Community Orchard.

mt/july 24