

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIEZE HILL
COMMUNITY ORCHARD HELD ON THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2018 AT
7.00 PM AT THE ELMS TENNIS CLUB**

PRESENT: Chris Ball, Pauline Clarke, Dolly Edwards (part), Martin Edwards, Margaret Gibson, Rob Hartley, Jeff Mohun, Peter Morris, Susann Parker, Kathryn Phillips, Kevin Phillips, Joyce Thomas, Tony Trott, Caroline Turner.

Margaret welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Dave Topham who was one of the first members of the orchard.

APOLOGIES: Mary Bagshawe, Fran Brennan, Christine Broad, Linda Conway, Sue Goodman, John Henden and Pete Lofthouse.

The minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting were agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

Chris Ball asked whether the blackthorn would be checked for brown hairstreak butterflies before it was cut. Unfortunately this could not be guaranteed.

ANNUAL REPORT

Margaret reminded the meeting of what the orchard had set out to do by going through the constitution.

The future of the orchard had been secured in perpetuity by it becoming a Centenary Field in Trust. The background to this scheme was given. The granting of FIT status had been celebrated at the successful Apple Day.

Background was given to the planning application for a STOR on the neighbouring field. Eighty objections had been received. The application for the access track had now been withdrawn but would be resubmitted together with the substantive application but this had at yet not happened.

WASSAIL

Caroline spoke about this year's event, which had been a great success. However a decision needs to be made on whether to scale it up or down as there had been issues due to a lack of direction for those taking part and the crowd, a change in the wind direction and a lack of helpers.

St John's Ambulance could be asked to attend. Staplegrove Scouts could also be asked to assist in order for them to earn badges.

MAINTENANCE

Caroline ran through the maintenance that had been carried out through the year. Thirteen trees had been planted in November.

MEMBERSHIP (Friends of Frieze Hill Community Orchard)

Membership was looking very healthy with 100 members currently. Everyone who now buys a tree is asked to become a friend of the orchard.

FACEBOOK

This was a great success and we currently had 249 followers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jeff spoke through the Treasurer's Report and went through the receipts and payments.

It was agreed that the financial year for the orchard would run from 1 February to 31 January to make it easier to account for money both spent and received at the wassail.

Jeff was thanked for all his hard work throughout the year. Tony Trott was also thanked for independently reviewing the accounts.

ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

All current Committee members would continue except for Ross Friend who had resigned.

Margaret thanked the Committee for all their hard work.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kathryn Phillips asked why the orchard was not a charity. It was explained that we wanted to put all our effort into the orchard and not into paperwork. Also charities have to have a bank balance in excess of £5,000.

Chris Ball was thanked for the use of his garage for the storage of the orchard's equipment.

Margaret thanked Caroline for all her hard work, enthusiasm and support.

The meeting then closed and a very interesting talk followed by Dave Topham from the Brendon Orchards Co-operative.