

THE MINUTES OF FRIEZE HILL COMMUNITY ORCHARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 MARCH 2016

PRESENT: Mary Bagshawe, Chris Ball, Fran Brenan, Dona Bullion, Pauline Clarke, Ross Friend, Margaret Gibson, Rob Hartley, Jeff Mohun, Peter Morris, Susann Parker, Neil and Christine Procter, Jennie Ross, Mary Ross, Joyce Thomas, Tony Trott and Caroline Turner.

APOLOGIES: Christine Broad, Sue Doyle, John Henden, Liz Mohun and Katie Redgate.

Margaret welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting.

Dona Bullion was introduced and she would be giving the talk later about Mummers Plays.

Subscription money was being collected by Caroline.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2015 were agreed (note change to correct date at top of minutes).

The Chairperson presented the Annual Report. Committee members were thanked. Katie, Lin and Marguerite were standing down and therefore the Committee were seeking new members if anybody was interested.

Margaret talked about the Orchard becoming a Centenary Field in Trust and that it would give it a greater level of protection. It was agreed by those present that we should proceed with this.

Maintenance had carried on through the year via regular work-ins. Mary talked through the work that had been done. There had been little or no Ragwort. Fourteen trees had been planted in November. The price of a tree would have to be increased to £35. The arbour was listing slightly and also needed a new strut and seat panels. The bramble hedge needed cutting back as did the bramble clumps. Ross was making a new sign which would sit between the Rowans at the far end of the Orchard. Agreed that the Hazels would be coppiced next year. The eggs of the brown hairstreak butterfly had been found on some Blackthorn and therefore these had not been cut down.

Margaret told the meeting about Percival le Vert (the parrot) and his history. A memorial stone had been put in by Manning and Knight. An unveiling of the stone would take place on Friday 20 May 2016 at 11.00 am.

Thanks were given to Chris for letting the Committee store equipment in his garage.

A new gazebo costing £610 had been bought with money from the Unparished Fund of TDBC.

Caroline spoke about the successful Wassail 2016. Thanks were given to everyone who had helped. Dona suggested that instead of burgers and sausages we could serve bacon rolls.

Agreed not to hold a Summer event as this has not been well supported in the past.

Caroline gave the up-to-date position with regard to membership and reminded those who had not yet paid that their subscription was now due. The price had been raised to £7.00 and this had been accepted by people.

Jeff talked through the finance position for the year. There was currently £1,466 at the end of December which is when the orchard's financial year finishes. Tony Trott was thanked for auditing the accounts. Margaret thanked both Tony and Jeff for their work.

The Constitution, which had previously been circulated to members, had not been reviewed since the orchard was started. The proposed changes were talked through and then agreed by those present.

The following people were elected to the Management Committee: Mary Bagshawe, Ross Friend, Margaret Gibson, Jeff Mohun, Joyce Thomas and Caroline Turner. Fran Brenan would be joining the Committee and she was thanked for this.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mary Ross asked whether there had been any approach regarding housing development on or near the orchard. Nothing had been heard and it remains part of the Staplegrove Green Wedge.

The Annual General Meeting was formally closed and the floor was then taken by Dona to give her talk on Mummings Plays.