

Frieze Hill Community Orchard

www.communityorchard.org.uk

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NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

28 March 2007 at The Clubhouse, Elms Estate Tennis Club

Present: Margaret Gibson (Chairperson), Linda Conway (Secretary), Roger Conway (Treasurer), Christopher Ball, Heather Brown, Caroline Chidzoy, Gordon Field, Ross Friend, Emma-Sophie Gerrish, Sarah Heal, Geraldine Moses, Alexandra Penny, Katie Redgate, Joyce Thomas, Caroline Turner and Susan Williams

Apologies: Mary Bagshawe, Valerie Couch, Barbara Culverwell, Normans Culverwell, Maurice Jordan, June Small, Robin Small, Tony Trott, Mike Whitmore

Minutes of Previous meeting were agreed and signed (proposed KR, seconded CT)

1. **Welcome:-**

Margaret Gibson opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

2. **Annual Report:-**

The written report had been circulated, MG explained that there was a formal Constitution and the licence with the TDBC was a year on year, this made it impossible to become a registered charity and extremely difficult to raise large sums from Trusts. The ethos was to put effort into the Orchard and not paperwork. Steering Group meetings were approximately 6 weekly now that the bulk of the tree planting had been accomplished. Trees planted at the beginning of 2007 were 4 plums, 2 pears, 2 crab apples and donated trees were 1 gage, 1 cherry, 2 walnut, 2 apple and 2 holly.

MG reported on the success of the Apple Day due to the support and encouragement of June and Robin Small. Also, it was heartening to see the high attendance at the Wassail, despite the poor weather. It was thought to be a particularly good event for young children to be able to be out in the dark and to join in so fully.

She mentioned that some money had been offered by TDBC towards a new information board, but the Group had felt that we wished to keep the present information board made by RF, which was individual to the Orchard.

There was much discussion about the work and noise being generated by Rail Track which was spoiling the tranquillity of the Orchard and driving people away; the worst of this noise occurring immediately behind the bench. It was felt that the Steering group should attempt to get this restricted.

KR thanked MG for all the work she put in as Chairperson and said that it would not be so vibrant without her, all present agreed.

3. Financial Report and Audited Accounts:-

The audited accounts had been circulated and Roger Conway spoke to them. He explained that membership and donations constituted the bulk of the income, although there was help from TDBC towards our insurance costs. The proposed change to unitary authority for Somerset might bring a change in policy. He explained that there was a loss on both the Apple Day and the Wassail, despite donations. It was agreed that there should be a membership drive. It was also agreed that an approach should be made to Viridor for a grant from their Land Fill Tax income, despite not having a 25yr licence. CT proposed and KR seconded the Accounts be accepted. Carried.

Thanks were extended to the Auditor and KR proposed and GM seconded that he be re-appointed.

4. Election of Management Committee (Steering Group):-

Margaret Gibson reported that the current members had agreed to remain. And CB and SH agreed to join too. MG pointed out that all meetings were open to anyone who wished to attend and encouraged people to 'come along'.

Date of Next Meeting:-

The next meeting of the Steering Group would be fixed shortly and the date circulated. It was agreed that it should be a Wednesday.

The AGM for 2008 was provisionally fixed for Wed. 26 March 2008

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55pm

