

Frieze Hill Community Orchard

www.communityorchard.org.uk

18 Roughmoor Cottages, Frieze Hill, Taunton, TA1 1HA. 01823 270754



DRAFT – subject to AGM 2009 approval

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25 March 2008 at The Clubhouse, Elms Estate Tennis Club, starting at 7.02pm

Present: Margaret Gibson (Chairperson), Linda Conway (Secretary), Roger Conway (Treasurer), Mary Bagshawe, Christopher Ball, Heather Brown, Geraldine Field, Gordon Field, Ross Friend, Emma-Sophie Gerrish, Sarah Heal, Alexandra Penny, Katie Redgate, June Small, Robin Small, Joyce Thomas, Tony Trott, Caroline Turner, Kira Johnson, Pauline Manning, Owen Meredith and Peter Morris

Apologies: Caroline Chidzoy, Mike Whitmore, Terry Edwards, Sue Williams, Mr & Mrs Coombs, Mr & Mrs Culverwell, Dinah Butler, Peter Smith, Lin Avery and Mrs Davys.

1. Welcome:-

Margaret Gibson opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

2. Minutes of Previous meeting were agreed and signed (proposed Chair)

3. Matters Arising:- There is still a major noise problem from Railtrack's operations at Fairwater Yard. The 'temporary' generator is still in place and the actual programme to re-track and re-signal doesn't appear to have started. MG will enquire if Taunton Deane Council have any information.

4. Annual Report:-

The written report had been circulated, MG explained that the Steering Group meetings were approximately 6 weekly now that the bulk of the tree planting had been accomplished. A group from GE Industrial Thermometrics (UK) Ltd had done, as part of their community service initiative, some valuable maintenance work in June, supporting the regular work done by Orchard Members, and TDBC had donated bark for spreading. In August the Orchard ran a stall at the French Weir open day and was able to gain some good PR. Ross Friend had been pruning on site. Ross also reported on the damage being done by rabbits. Robin Small made suggestions to help protect the trees better.

MG explained how the poor weather conditions caused the cancellation of the Wassail, and although there had been an intention to hold it in March, it had been finally decided that this was too late and that we should hold a spring event instead. Caroline Turner told the meeting about the proposed joint event with the children from North Town School and it was provisionally set for Saturday 17th May, including Maypole dancing with music provided by Orchard members and friends.

MG announced that John Garrett had generously offered to fund an arch and bench in memory of his late wife and that work on this was well underway. It is intended that the formal acknowledgement and opening of the arch/bench will take place at the May gathering.

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. Tony Trott asked if the fall in donations because the bulk of the planting was now complete, would result in any financial worries and should the level of subs be increased as a consequence. RMC replied that he thought our finances were sound at the moment and recommended that subs should remain at £5. He also expressed the view that having too much money to hand might make grants more difficult to achieve. He acknowledged the continued financial support of TDBC, especially with regard to insurance. RMC thanked Mike Whitmore for his continuing support as Auditor. RS proposed and GF seconded the Accounts be accepted. Carried.

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

Margaret Gibson reported that the current members had agreed to remain. Anyone who wished to join would be more than welcomed. MG pointed out that all meetings were open to anyone who wished to attend and encouraged people to 'come along'.

5. Any Other Business:-

a) Netting:- Robin Small suggested using chicken netting under the bark surrounding the trees as a defence against Rabbits.

b) Other Events:- June Small mentioned that there has been a trend to decorating trees in Orchards in early December and that could give an opportunity for a public event. It was agreed that this could also figure in our May event with the children of North Town School. June also said that the Apple industry was promoting Blossom Day in mid May and again this was thought suitable for the May event.

5. Date of Next Meeting:-

The AGM for 2008 was provisionally fixed for March 2009, dependent on the availability of the Clubhouse

The next meeting of the Steering Group was Tuesday 8 April 2008, 7pm at 18 Roughmoor Cottages

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.41pm

MG spoke about the support, advice and encouragement of June and Robin Small in the development of the Orchard and we were given an excellent talk about the history of Apple growing in Somerset by June & Robin.

