

# Frieze Hill Community Orchard

[www.communityorchard.org.uk](http://www.communityorchard.org.uk)

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## **DRAFT 1**

### **NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**1 April 2009 at The Clubhouse, Elms Estate Tennis Club, starting at 7.04pm**

**Present:** *(please amend as you have the listings)* Margaret Gibson (Chairperson), Linda Conway (Membership Secretary), Roger Conway (Treasurer), Mary Bagshawe, Geraldine Field, Gordon Field, Ross Friend, Marj Hatten, Graham Hatten, Jeff Mohun, Peter Morris, John Porter, Mary Porter, Neil Procter, Christine Procter, Katie Redgate and Caroline Turner.

**Apologies:** Christopher Ball, Pauline Clarke, Sue Doyle, Sarah Heal, Owen Meredith, Joyce Thomas and Tony Trott.

**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:- (3)** There is still a major noise problem from Railtrack's operations at Fairwater Yard. The 'temporary' generator is still in place and it seems that our representations are being ignored. The Steering Committee are to re-consider what action to take. **(5a)** Netting under Trees. This has been done and a careful eye is being kept on the need for maintenance.

**4. Annual Report:-**

The formal written report was approved by the meeting, and an informal discussion followed.

- MG explained that the Steering Group meetings were approximately 6 weekly now that the bulk of the tree planting had been accomplished.
- This year's planting included Plum, Elder & Olive trees
- A planting day was held in January and Pruning and general maintenance working session had also been held.
- The wassail 2008 was cancelled due to the weather, but a May celebration was held instead, when the Arch was formally opened by Mr Garrett. Children from North Town School performed Maypole dances to the music of Roger C and Alan Corkett, whilst the adults, after partaking of Apple cake, cider and fruit juice group also 'had a go'. Friends of French Weir had turned up with their stall.
- In August the Orchard ran a stall at the French Weir open day and was able to gain some good PR.

**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. RMC also explained that the monies relating to the Arch did not appear in the accounts as the sponsor, Mr Garrett had settled all the accounts directly with the contractors. RMC said that he thought our finances were sound at the moment and that subs we now due and should give us sufficient income for the coming year. He acknowledged the continued financial support of TDBC, especially with regard to insurance. RMC thanked Mike Whitmore for his continuing support as Auditor. GF proposed and KR 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:-**

Charity Status:- MG explained that we occupy the site by licence from TDBC and members of the group had carried out research to discover whether the FHCO could claim the beneficial rights of the Turner bequest. It is a very grey area and there may be advantages in seeking charity registration to take advantage of legislation that would allow TDBC to transfer the land to the Orchard. The Steering Committee are to consider what action to take next.

**5. Date of Next Meeting:-**

The AGM for 2009 was provisionally fixed for March 2010, dependent on the availability of the Clubhouse

The next meeting of the Steering Group is Tuesday 6 May 2009, 7pm at 6 Elm Grove.

There being no further business the formal meeting closed at 7.51pm

After which we were given an excellent talk about the history of cider growing and production in Somerset by Marj & Graham Hatten, complete with a tasting that was enthusiastically received.

