

**MINUTES OF PARKEND COMMUNITY ORCHARD PROJECT MEETING HELD AT THE WOODMAN on 11-01-23 at 7 pm**

**1 Welcome and Introductions– Pete**

Those present- Pete, Ann Linden, Lisa, Jane, Bob, Julia, Emma, James, Dave, Miranda, Laura, Nikki, Janine, Martin

Miranda introduced herself to everyone and explained that she is taking over from Tamsin as our FE representative

**2 Apologies** – Ann Harris, Mike, Magda, Elaine, Alan, Martine, Jonathan

**3 Imminent Arrival of Orchard Trees, Survey of Stone Culverts, Approval of Planting Stake Positions, Group Plans for Planting, Hole Sizes Required etc –Pete/ Miranda**

The free orchard trees will be arriving w/c 16-01-23 and it was decided that any members that were available would meet **Miranda** at Castlemain Depot , Parkend at 2pm on Monday 16-01-23. The purpose of this will be to gather up some recycled plastic sleeve tree guards and to borrow some FE tree planting spades, (also if available some cycle track signs for the cycle track near Hughes Terrace as the present signs are worn out and no longer easy to read – see later AOB ).

The trees are likely to be bare rooted and will need to be healed in or temporarily placed in pots (within 7 days) if we are still awaiting approval on the siting of the planting stakes (**Miranda** will check on this with FE). **Ann Linden, Jane and Janine** all have some big pots which we can use if required.

As soon as we know if we have approval for planting we will contact members to arrange a workparty. Members were happy to pair up for hole digging and planting. Members agreed that 2 pm on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon were their preferred times. In view of all the recent rain and unpredictable weather we may need to have a plan for a workparty on the Saturday afternoon, changing that to the Sunday afternoon of the same weekend, if the Saturday turns out to be wet!

**4 Tree Guards and possible donations towards these – Pete /Miranda**

The recycled free plastic sleeve tree guards may have to be suitable in the very short term, but long term permanent protection from deer and boar will be necessary. The recent quote for the tree guards from Trevor Jones is £150 +vat each, which will not be affordable for the group. Therefore we may need to resort to making our own. **Janine** has some suitable heavy duty wire that we could use and **Pete** will investigate the possibility of some free stakes from International timber, or failing that, the price of some suitable stakes from Forest Products or ?Walford Sawmills? There is still also the possibility that some people within the village may wish to donate towards the cost of a tree guard?

**5 Fencing Progress** To our knowledge the situation remains that to complete the fencing (at the bottom edge and side up to York Lodge boundary) we are still waiting on the payment of the grant from GCC.

**6 Existing Funds** Again to our knowledge, assuming that we do receive the GCC grant, after paying for the remaining fencing we will have approx. £490 left.

**7 Memorial Bench Progress – Nikki** The bench has been installed and is now available for members and the wider community to enjoy.

**8 Plans and Date for Clearing the Cattle Grid- Pete**

It was decided that this could be done at the same time as the tree planting and **Dave** will advise us how to construct the hedgehog ramp as the grid is being cleared. **Miranda** mentioned that FE Estates may need to rethink the type of livestock that could be used for grazing in the fields after Tamsin's meeting with Kate Batt regarding the potential use of her sheep ( see previous group e mail 05-01-23 regarding this )

### **9 Dean Meadows Survey – Emma**

**Emma** will ask Wendy from The Dean Meadows Group to join us at our next meeting to discuss the results of their survey. Miranda explained that FE also employ an ecologist Kate? Woolan who may be able to come along to one of our future meetings?

### **10 Beat the Winter Blues Café – Nikki**

Our new '**Beat the Winter Blues Community Café**' will take place at **The Parkend Memorial Hall** on **Sunday 22nd January 11.00-12.30**. Further dates are **Sunday 26th February 11.00-12.30** and **Sunday 26th March 11.00 - 12.30**. These have been planned as a social wellbeing activity, fundraiser and to raise our profile within the village. Posters are now up in the village and the poster is also available to view on the Parkend Village Website. Please come along and join us. Any offers of help from members with setting/clearing up/serving refreshments, as well as donations of cakes and biscuits and donations of SMALL, EASILY STORED ITEMS that we can sell (see the posters for more suggestions regarding this) will be really appreciated.

### **11 Dead Cedar Tree Check – Miranda**

The dead cedar tree has been checked over by FE and is considered to be fine at present. FE will check it again in a year's time.

### **12 AOB**

The meeting decided that they did not want an Orchard Project sign placed in the fields as some members were concerned that this could promote potential tourism.

Concern was also expressed that cyclists might start coming in to the fields and it was decided that it would be a good idea to reinstate and possibly replace some of the existing worn out cycle track signs at the back of Hughes Terrace to aid signage and reduce this possibility. Cyclists are not allowed in to Nagshead Nature Reserve.

The question of the potential replacement of the FE dilapidated York Field's access gate leading to the road behind Hughes Terrace was once again raised and debated. At previous meetings some residents from Hughes Terrace had objected to the replacement of this gate as it could potentially encourage people to park there in order to access the fields. If this situation should arise it would compromise the already inadequate domestic parking situation along Hughes Terrace. **Miranda** will look in to the position that FE hold on this matter and report back to us. The replacement fencing of the fields along the bottom edge will potentially include this gate and is at present awaiting on the payment of the GCC grant.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm

**13 Date of next meeting** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am, venue to be confirmed but probably Parkend Memorial Hall.

