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Minutes
of the meeting of the
ORCHARD MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
held on Tuesday 17th October 2023
at 7.09 p.m.

Present: Cllr Chandler (Chairman) Cllr Haywood
Cllr Spires Cllr Oatham
Cllr Bush John Lilley
Ray Harvey

Clerk: Mrs L Whitefield

13 Election of Chairman

Cllr Oatham proposed that Paul Chandler be elected as Chairman of the Orchard Management Committee. Cllr Haywood seconded this proposal. All in favour.

14 Members' Apologies for Absence

None

15 Declaration of Interests

R. Harvey lives adjacent to the Orchard

16 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Cllr Haywood proposed that the minutes from the meeting held on 18th April 2023 be accepted. Cllr Bush seconded. All in favour.

17 Public Discussion

No public present

18 Renaming of Committee

Cllr Oatham proposed that the name of this committee be changed to "Land Behind North Drive Committee." Cllr Bush seconded this. All in favour.

19 Ten year Plan for Land Behind North Drive

Discussion over creating a ten year plan for this land. Can be changed but need a plan

1. Fences – Need a single two strand wire fence along the boundary edge by this winter. Approximately 240 metres of fencing. Cutting back needs to take place before this can happen.
2. Ditches – Clear the ditches on Parish land. Check those near neighbouring land to make sure water not coming on to our land.
3. Get entrance/gate to land
4. Create nature trail/open glades/habitat for wildlife/signage
5. Create pond

20 Budget for Setting up Maintenance of land

- Need to purchase fencing to mark boundary after clearance of overgrowth
- Cllr Spires advised contacting BTCV asking for a grant. They donated £10,000 to nature reserve in Nipsells chase.

- Cllr Haywood proposed that a budget of £10,000 be used from the 2024/25 precept. Cllr Chandler seconded this. All in favour.
- Grant for pond is still available. Clerk to contact Andy May regarding this.

21 To consider purchasing an additional piece of land for access

- Cllr Oatham proposed that an additional piece of land at the entrance to the orchard be purchased from Geoff Wood at a cost of £10,000. This will allow machinery in and enable a wider entrance to be formed. Earmarked reserve for the Orchard is £18,000 to be spent as follows:
 - The cost of the land is £10,000.
 - The cost for both parties' solicitors' fees is £1,200.
 - Approx cost to install a strand fence along boundary £4,800

Cllr Bush seconded this. All in favour on the provision that the right amount of land is purchased. To be staked out and agreed by both parties.

- Cllr Haywood to check with fencing contractor the cost to move existing fence.
- Amount of £5,000 to be paid to solicitor to be held as a deposit.

22 Change of Use

- This piece of land is listed on Maldon District Council's LDP as scrub land. The Council decided not to seek further advice at this time.

23 Essex Wildlife Trust

- John Lilley will speak to Essex Wildlife Trust asking for help with setting up this land. Clerk to contact BTCV to ask for help/grants.

24 Sale of Land

- Cllr Spires proposed that this land is not sold as it would become more valuable in the future and confirmed that while the Parish Council own it, it is protected.

Meeting closed at 8.53pm