

**FRIENDS OF DOWNE ORCHARD
COMMITTEE MEETING no 9 – minutes**

18 July 2018 at 18:30 (The Queen's Head)

1. **Attendees:** John Fisher (JF), Zoe Knight (ZK), Julian Moore (JM), (PK), Declan Wells (DW), Kay Tremain (KT), Steve Barnes (SB), Yvonne Barnes (YB),
2. **Apologies:**, Paul Gubby, Paul Knight, Mike Bingold, Mark Sear
3. **Financials** – ZK reported £871.61 in the Friends bank account. This will be reduced by about £200 after payment to Declan for tools
4. **2017 Harvest** - JF reported that we would be able to sell cider. ZK reported (via a letter from Rosa at the Orchard Project) that cider & juice bottling and collection dates were still to be announced as the business was moving premises
5. **2018 Harvest** – JF reported the growth was two weeks early due to the weather. No decisions on harvest dates could be made until the hay cut date was known – JF is seeking this from Idverde. JF feels early harvest could be 2nd week in August, and late harvest 1st week in November. JF will call a “harvest meeting” prior to the harvests.

ZK outlined a couple of alternative options for apple pressing for 2018 (other than the Orchard Project):

Ringden Farm

www.ringdenfarm.co.uk/make-your-own-juice/

2017 prices to make, sterilise, bottle and shrink wrap in 12s was £1.30 per litre. They estimate 3lbs of apples makes 1litre, one plastic tray/crate= 12 bottles

Owlet apple pressing service (Lamberhurst)

www.owletfruitjuice.co.uk/apple-pressing-service/

2017 price £1.10 + Vat/litre of unpasteurised juice ready to make own cider

6. **Footpath / bench** - SB reported having carried out a site survey with Ian Wright. Re the footpath - the current westerly footpath is planned to be moved towards Rookery Rd (by Idverde), so it was agreed to wait till later this year till this was done to see how it would affect an entry/exit by the power substation. Re the bench, SB has purchased this (via the lottery). Ian Wright, Thomas Annand (both Idverde) and JF have all agreed the location. DW, JM and SB will liaise re installation.
7. **Next events** – agreed that we would go ahead with an Apple Day, Harvests (maybe with a “big lunch”), Wassail (January), Picnic Day.
8. **Other jobs** – JF listed these as:
 - Getting rid of Ragwort
 - Repairs to gate at North End Lane

- Clearance of the fire site – it was agreed to keep the North End Lane area trimmed for events, and the fire site in the usual location
 - Store the corrugated iron
 - “Halo” the pear trees to help watering/recovery
9. **Insurance** - JF reported we were now covered by standard insurance for public liability. Details are on the Friends page of Downe website
10. **Next meeting** – Weds 24th October 2018

11. Previous actions

6/5 JM to investigate the creation of a Downe Orchard booklet **(C/F)**

6/6 All to pool orchard photos (via Dropbox possibly), and advise ZK **(discharged)**

6/7 JF to propose 2018 harvest dates, and a “process map” (covering preparation, picking, storage etc) **discharged - business as usual**

6/8 DW to investigate creating an apple box-making workshop (JM has a source of appropriate wood) **C/F**

7/1 YB to email Ella re Wassail **(discharged)**

7/2 ZK to write to Rosa with an answer needed by 22 Jan **(discharged)**

7/3 ZK to purchase an orchard first aid kit **(C/F)**

8/1 meeting to be called to discuss 2017 cider/juice **(C/F)**

8/2 SB to follow up footpath/bench with Idverde/Bromley **(discharged)**

12. This meeting actions

9/1 ZK to circulate alternative options for apple pressing for 2018

9/2 JF to call a “harvest meeting”

9/3 DW/JM/SB to liaise re bench installation