

MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING OF THE ST.IVES COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND NATURE RESERVE GROUP: (hereafter referred to as SCON\*)

**NB: official name needs to be decided at next meeting**

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015: 6.30 Queens Hotel

Present: Elise Langley – Project Coordinator  
Rupert Manley – volunteer  
Senara Hodges – volunteer  
Jim Fletcher – volunteer  
Colin Ray – volunteer  
Ria Dennet- volunteer

- Elise introduced everyone and talked through the work parties who volunteered at The Orchard during 2015. There were six work parties in all – each lasting two hours. Colin also did a lot of extra hours on his own. We didn't work during the crucial summer months and hope to have monthly work parties next year.
- Rupert is secretary of The Steeple Woodland People Group (SWPG) so was able to advise on the details of setting up a new committee and our relationship with The Town Council, Cornwall Council, and SWPG
- SWGP are negotiating with Cornwall Council to declare an area of rough land above the Orchard as a designated nature reserve. (the Palemon Best Trust land also encompasses an adjoining area of this rough land)
- SCON agreed that they would be happy to manage the proposed 'Nature Reserve' proposed nature reserve once the organisation has the capacity to do so. Rupert said that management of this area should be very simple – just clearing the main path to Carn Stabba a couple of times/year and SCON suggested it would be great to plant some trees in this area in the future.
- Elise had a meeting earlier today with the Palemon Best User Group who were thrilled that we were setting up this group. They said it would be fine for us to have a container on the land to store tools and to make the pathway to The Orchard wider if necessary to bring in the storage unit.
- We discussed setting up a bank account and felt we should do this as soon as possible as some of the grants require evidence that a bank account has been open for six months. Elise is going to look into this.
- We talked about the different kind of groups (eg. Charities, CIC or Community Group). SCON was originally a part of Penwith Environmental Network (PEN) and they supplied all the trees, tools and the insurance cover. They also suggested we remain part of PEN. We discussed this but came to the conclusion that it would be best to establish a local group - It was decided that a simple Community

Group was the best option. We are very grateful to PEN for their support and would like to continue with| PEN as our umbrella group until we have fully established SCON and organized our own insurance etc..

- We need to fill the roles of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary. At the next meeting we plan to have elections for all the posts.
- We agreed that we should have a Management Plan for The Orchard and Nature Reserve. At the moment we don't have funds for this – but we would like to commission Cornwall Wildlife Trust (suggested by Rupert) when we have more funds.
- Elise told us about a donation from a wellwisher of £200 which will go towards more trees and tools.
- We agreed that we should buy more tools so that we don't have to borrow each time from SWPG. We hope to be able to store these tools on site in a container which we need to buy. Currently Elise is storing them at her house.
- Jim mentioned that it would be good to involve local schools – for instance building Bat Boxes and planting days.
- Elise mentioned the Newquay Community Orchard – she has talked to Luke Berkley and has arranged a visit to swap ideas.

#### ACTION PLAN:

- Check with Natural England that the rough land is suitable to be designated as a Nature Reserve. Try to set up a meeting with Natural England, a representative from the Town Council and Paleman Best Trust and Cornwall Council and/or CORMAC and landowner of additional section beyond Carn Stabba (see below) to go over the site. See: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/create-and-manage-local-nature-reserves>
- Arrange to meet up with the Town Council to ascertain the land boundaries and discuss having a written agreement.
- Find out how much insurance will cost SCON
- Set up a bank account as soon as possible.
- Find out how much the Management Plan will cost. Need to draw up a specification for the management plan so that we can obtain quotes
- Set up a date for the next meeting and advertise this widely as soon as possible.

\* with cream first and then jam