

St Ives Community Orchard & Nature Reserve Group (SCON)

Date: 15th Dec 2020

Address: 5 Porthia Crescent, St Ives, TR26 2JA

Attendance: Elise Langley, Mattie Pochee, Phoebe Sampson, Emma, Jo Dereza and Catelyn Cox. Rupert Manly and Susan via Zoom.

Apologies Angela Challacombe, Gill Anderson & Sarah White. Catelyn is taking minutes for the meeting.

Review Meetings:

1. Matters arising (previous meeting):

- Re our decision to become a Charity or CIC: to avoid risks / personal liability of being a community group / also due to large funds in bank account, its better to become a official body – having looked at all aspects and research have decided to become a CIC. Soon to move forward with the admin involved.
- Constitution & Lease review: Need to edit both to incorporate lots of changes. Hoping to acquire extra piece of land from Cornwall Council (find out within the week) / Lease expires in 2 years.
- Cornish confectioners: gate from car park for wheelchair access. Outcome: they happy to have gate but have said it could only be used for their staff – still under discussion. Have also asked them if there is any way they could reduce the noise from their fans & if they have plans to get solar panels.
- Community building: town deal application for money to build, need to get additional strip of Cornwall Council land between the road and the orchard added to our lease. Maybe other possibilities for potential land (at the rugby club) due to our Foodshare connection and their town deal plans to develop.

Treasurer Report:

- Our treasurer Melanie Frankell has resigned, is no longer a signatory and the bank account has moved back to Elise's address. Thanks to Melanie who put in a lot of work doing the reports. See [Treasurer report](#) for last year accounts.
- Possible new treasurer: Gillian. Have put it out to the group to look out for any other potential candidates in case she can't do it but if she's willing we'd be very happy to have her come on board.
- Also plan to ask a group of accountants who support community groups to do our accounts. <https://cornwallcas.org.uk/>
- We have 2 separate bank accounts. One is for the Skatepark project and this money is all being transferred to the Town Council as the Skatepark is now going to be built. Would like to then convert this bank account into a separate one for our SCOF (St Ives Community Orchard Foodshare) project to make it simpler for the books.
- Potential petty cash system for spending of small amounts for SCOF – Jo willing to manage this.

AGM:

- Usually we have our AGM at this time where we would re-elect a new chair, secretary & treasurer, but its been a strange year so are going to defer our AGM & re-elections to March .

Koos Govenek/Nature reserve report:

Nearly all the trees we planted last year, aprox 700, most have survived and are doing really well.

Tree planting plans:

- 2 Deliveries of aprox 900 trees Friday (18th Dec 2020) – Need to group to bring them to orchard, dig trench in potato patch sometime on Friday.
- After Christmas need to set up well attended tree planting days (Tuesday/Sunday/ Additional days spread out amount of people keen to plant)
- Potentially free ticketed Eventbrite time slots to reduce numbers and make it more accessible / bring own tools if they have them (COVID Friendly).
- Commitment cards – continued maintenance especially in the summer, visit tree every 2/4 weeks.
- Tree tags – Decided to move away from the idea of labelling sponsored trees as the labels either blow off or could cut into the tree as it grows. What Three Words as possible tagging system instead of physical tags.

Orchard Report:

- Veggie plot: next year plan veggie planting/harvest better. More people committed to managing veggie patches specifically.
- Encourage local families to adopt a fruit tree to plant a garden around - companion planting / wild garlic at base of trees. We have had numerous fruit tree adoptions of £50 but we are stopping this option for the moment.
- Veggie garden events/ad hoc/workshops.
- Vegetable garden map to show different sections and what specific attention they need.
- Elise very keen to introduce mushrooms into the orchard in hidden areas in the woodland – you can buy logs already impregnated & plant on woodchips.
- Apple cider: 100L new cider is nearly ready plus 40l of apple juice, 16 crates of organic apples used. 100l of cider made the previous year has lasted us the year.
- Apple harvest: need more signage to reduce excess community picking.
- Gleaning network: gain access to other community orchards/farmers surplus produce from fields and orchards.

Work Parties / Volunteers:

- We always get lots of volunteers for tree planting so need to work on recruitment at these times for volunteering and tree maintenance.
- Elise has organized a rugby club Christmas market and is having a stall for recruitment & tree sponsorship
- Join up with online sites to advertise work parties or network/connect with with other community projects volunteers.

Events / Celebration plans:

- Possibility of a small solstice celebration (Mon 21st) – bonfire, making or bringing decorations for orchard Christmas tree, lights, word of mouth, not officially advertised.

Funding:

We've had loads of funding this year. There is money to spend on workshops, walks and events as we didn't spend much of it this year. Need to spend most of it by April, unless we contact them to extend it because COVID hasn't allowed us to host the events we had planned. We are also being awarded a really large grant for our foodshare project: £31,000 pounds to upgrade Rugby club kitchens, kitchen equipment, staff costs (first time ever we've had that) & lots of other things. Thanks so much to Jo and Rissa who have been amazing at helping fill in the funding forms.

Any other matters:

- Discussion of Management plan, registered as a nature reserve. CEC have sent through a management plan that needs to be approved. Have emailed this out to orchard group to look over.
- Over 200 objections to new proposed development on the green land alongside nature reserve. Jo has connection to help change outcome. Keen to protest on fields and film it, including locals and orchard members.
- Do first aid ASAP, pay someone to conduct group course.
- Jo offering bid/grant writing and editing service for all community groups – put word out. Jo has helped us write most of our funding bids and has a great talent for it.

Actions:

- After Christmas need to set up well attended tree planting days (Tuesday/Sunday) Additional days spread out amount of people keen to plant
- Do first aid ASAP, pay someone to conduct group course.
- Ask for extension of certain funds past April.
- Vegetable Garden planting and harvesting plan.
- Quote for Kissing gate installation.
- Introduce short-term petty cash system.

Date of next meeting / AGM: 9 March 2021

Time: 3pm