**FRIENDS OF MIDSUMMER COMMON**

**COMMITTEE MEETING ON 4 JANUARY 2023 (by Zoom)**

In attendance: Kit Holland (Chair), Jeremy Francis (Treasurer), Peter Gotham (Membership Secretary), Inbali Iserles

Apologies: Steve Cheek, Rosica Bates, Kate Hurst

1. **Orchard**
   1. S.106 works:

* The contractor for the S.106 works expects to be on site within two weeks, and to have finished within two months.
* The works so far agreed are expected to cost less that the award of £15,000. We do not yet know how the balance of the award is to be spent. **Action: Kit**
  1. Raised beds: We do not yet have a planting plan for the three new raised beds, Kit will consult before buying plants, the aim is to have them planted up in the Spring. **Action: Kit**
  2. Shed: Agreed that Kit would confirm with the owner of the mower that we will be able to take delivery of this as soon as the shed extension is complete, expected within two months. **Action: Kit**
  3. Woody waste and woodchip: Kit is to arrange for the collection of the woody waste in the orchard, and delivery of a load of woodchip. **Action: Kit**
  4. Wassail event: This will take place on 15 January (tbc, subject to the availability of the musicians). **Action: Kit**

1. **Communications**
   1. Newsletter

* Kit will draft articles on the orchard, and ‘from the chair’. Jeremy will summarise the AGM. We can also include future events on the Common. All text to be drafted by 13 February. **Action: Kit/Jeremy**
* Kit will ask the printers if the colour on the printed version can be improved. **Action: Kit**
* It is now about three years since we started delivering printed copies in the local area. We think we have covered the most likely streets (i.e. excluding those more likely to associate with Logan’s Meadow or Jesus Green) but we have not been keeping detailed records. Jeremy will prepare a summary of what we have done so far and make a proposal for future distribution. **Action: Jeremy**
  1. Website
* Peter, Rosica and Kit will meet shortly to agree who will do what on updating and maintaining the website. We need to update the details of committee members, and ensure that all minutes of committee meetings and AGMs are there. **Action: Peter, Rosica, Kit**
* We agreed to test whether the ‘Join’ button works on both Macs and PCs. Peter will organise and review the results. **Action: Peter**
  1. Membership list
* Peter has been working through our membership records. There are 192 members with a current email address, but another 110 names where the email bounces back. Peter is going through all these names to try and establish if the email address is wrong or if there is some other reason. He will consult committee members for assistance. **Action: Peter**
* Steve has built a back end to the website to collate new member details. Peter will add all existing members to this and will also ensure that this information is password protected and only available to current committee members. **Action: Peter**
* Peter will trial ‘mailchimp’ for emailing the membership. **Action: Peter**

1. **Main Common**
   1. Tree maintenance:

* Kit reported that some significant pruning is being done to trees on the Common, which may lead to comments from members
* Agreed that we would arrange a walk round the Common in the Spring (with Kenny McGregor if possible) to review the health of the trees
  1. Electric scooters etc: We discussed the letter received from Prof

Hopkins. Kit had advised Prof Hopkins that Councillor Tim Bick had agreed at the AGM to get involved in this issue. We will continue to liaise with him and monitor progress (a government decision on the use of escooters is not expected until later in 2023, or in 2024).

* 1. Summer events:
* The latest email from Ashley Read at the Council shows

five events planned for Midsummer Common in 2023. Agreed that these should be shown on the website. **Action: Kit/Peter/Rosica**

* Jeremy agreed to ask Ashley that we be informed about any pre meetings for events on the Common, to give us the opportunity of attending if thought useful. **Action: Jeremy**

1. **Finance**
   1. Mowing grant: Jeremy is to notify Alistair Wilson at the Council of

FoMC’s bank account details so that Alistair can pay the 2022/23 mowing grant. **Action: Jeremy**

* 1. Budget for 2023/24: This needs to be prepared, as well as an assessment of the likely result for 2022/23. **Action: Jeremy**
  2. Grant for 2023/24: Peter had received the application forms which he had passed to Jeremy. **Action: Jeremy**

1. **Committee members**
   1. Agreed that we would email the members with a view to getting one

or more to join the committee. Inbali will draft the text for this, which will include an invitation to join the committee at their meeting after volunteering on 29 January. **Action: Inbali/Kit**