

Friends of Summers Field AGM Minutes

Tuesday 25th March 2025

Doynton Village Hall 7pm

Present

Ron Ritchie, Helen Barnes, Chris Sherman, Diana Ashman - committee members
Barbara Kent, Lee Whitbread - members of the public

Introduction and welcome by incoming chair, Ron Ritchie

Ron welcomed everyone and expressed his enthusiasm for the orchard and its ongoing development as a valuable asset for the community and for biodiversity in the area. He also expressed his appreciation for the hard work and passion contributed over the years by Paul Drayton as retiring chair. This was seconded by all present.

Apologies

Paul Drayton, Jenny Bartram, Lisa Williams, Corrinda Wakefield-Wylde

Review of previous AGM minutes

It was noted from the previous year's minutes that Jenny was not a trustee last year. The trustees were actually Paul, Lisa and Corrinda. This inaccuracy was agreed and the change noted.

Review of committee members

Chair - Ron

Secretary - Diana

Treasurer - Jenny

Election of new committee members

We have a good committee, so it was decided to keep the existing number of eight members.

Annual report

Ron made the suggestion that the annual report could possibly be uploaded onto the web page for the FOSF on the village website so that it becomes available to all.

Action - Ron to contact Derek Girling in this respect.

Some further additions to the report for the past year were discussed.

Action - Ron to amend.

Treasurer's report

The big earner for the year was down to our participation at the Rectory teas. The barn dance also earned around £500.

Our outgoings were normal for the year, consisting mainly of rent and insurance.

Reserves may be used to purchase a mower.

The report was formally agreed.

Paul no longer wishes to be a signatory on the account and Ron has agreed to take his place. Jenny is a second signatory. Chris has agreed to be a reserve signatory if Lisa no longer wishes to remain a signatory.

Action - Ron contact Lisa to check whether she still wishes to remain as a signatory on the bank account.

Jenny has successfully submitted her report to the charity commission for the year. Gift Aid is still something that Chris is trying to sort out.

Action - Chris resubmit the gift aid forms to HMRC

Future developments

Ron is keen to raise the profile of Summer's Field within the community. He suggested that we should invite attendees to Orchard events to share their views and ideas by making short written contributions via post-it notes/suggestions board. It was ventured that, on past experience, we may get some challenging ideas, but it was nonetheless agreed that it is always worth listening to the views of others.

The idea of establishing links with other community orchards was also floated. Chris has a contact at Corston Orchard, which he will explore with a view to sharing ideas and setting up a possible visit. Their community activities include pond creation, bat night and a moths expert night.

Action - Chris to open a possible dialogue with Corston Community Orchard

Ron was keen to make educational links to other organisations e.g. schools. He suggested getting in touch with Wick Primary School to promote Forest School activities for the children, using the orchard as a teaching resource.

Action - Chris to pass on contact details to Diana of the lady that organises Forest School at Wick. Diana to contact school.

Extending the profile and use of Summer's Field, suggestions invited

Both Barbara and Lee were in agreement that it would be good to support biodiversity in the orchard by creating a pond.

New community links in Doynton and beyond

See above

Links with other community orchards

See above

Development of web presence and online information

See above

Link with Doynton biodiversity plan

Sarah has not yet had sufficient support to take things forward as yet, but this is something that could still be developed in the future, once it has been established exactly where we are with biodiversity within the village.

Newsletter

Ongoing action - Helen

Helen agreed to continue to produce our annual newsletter at the end of August.

Possible bioblitz

A possibility for direction of travel in 18 months or so time.

AOB

Barbara has a contact in the village who makes bird boxes and suggested installing a kestrel box. This was agreed

Bristol white beam is offered for sale by the Bristol Botanic Garden and Barbara suggested planting one in the orchard. It would be good for wildlife and it is a very local species.

We agreed to check on limitations to establish whether we could plant this species.

It was noted that there is a growing tendency for dog walkers not to dispose of their animal's poo responsibly. This is clearly not in the interests of other orchard users.

Action - Ron to look into ways that we can highlight this issue via signage.

Committee business - future events

Cream tea

Helen created a poll to find out the most favourable date for the cream tea. 27th April or 18th May.

Publicise by What's App and posters around the village and at the coffee morning.

Action Chris - check that dates line up with church events.

Doynton Fete

It was agreed by all that the map produced in 2023 outlining areas which can be mowed to accommodate the fete will stand for 2025.

The items below were not covered during the AGM, but will be discussed at the next proposed committee on 22nd April at 7pm at The Cross House.

- Juicing
- Autumn Feast
- Maintenance
- New signage
- Links with Sally Pattison and South Glos Council