

RHSO (Rivers Heritage Site and Orchard)

Meeting 24/03/2026 7.30pm

23 Rowney Gardens, Sawbridgeworth

Present: Ruth Buckmaster (chairperson), Colin Gill, Elizabeth Waugh, Lanier Pole, Catherine Page, Eric Buckmaster, Nickie Hancock, Hazel Mead

Apologies: no one

Purpose of Meeting: Review of committee responsibilities and discuss events going forward

| Topic | Discussion/ decision | Action |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Welcome | Ruth welcomed us all | |
| Adrienne's role cover | We discussed the key points that need covering. Most it was decided could be discussed further when we start planning for Apple Day and Wassail. We talked about the Juicers & problems with bottles, batch numbers etc – Colin will discuss with Cam Valley and report back | Colin |
| Storage | Ruth and Hazel said they had another meeting coming up Eric looking at insurance. | C/F C/F |
| Publicity | Hazel will put posters up around town, Catherine will put up in the Orchard. Flyer and Link will be done by Elizabeth, but Teddy Bears Picnic will be done by Hazel Ruth will continue with Face Book | Hazel Catherine Elizabeth Ruth |
| Finance | Hazel confirmed we had over £4572.73 in the account, all going well. Plus we have significant stock to sell Latest juice sales were £470 which was excellent. | |
| Maintenance issues | We talked about new trees and where they would go – Colin recommended 6 apples and 1 plum (to replace the one that didn't survive) Colin will send Catherine the process to aid understanding (completed). A discussion on what we were trying to achieve from the Orchard resulted in the decisions that we need to ensure we continue as a Heritage Orchard and Apples need to be Thomas Rivers Cultivars. We also want to continue planting which means planting around October, but it will take a long time to get the correct root stock so Colin will start exploring and will come back to committee with recommended varieties | Colin |
| Events coming up | Teddy Bear's Picnic 17 th May Nickie to send out date with next maintenance (completed) Hazel to do publicity. It was agreed it would only run 12 – 2 We will need posters and will verbally warn about hog weed. | |

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|----------------------------|--|---|
| | Only apply juice will be on sale. We will discuss further at the next meeting (include risk assessment) | |
| Town Meeting | We will have a stall. Nickie to reply and send Ruth's report (completed) | Nickie |
| Dates going forward | <p>Juice sales: May Fayre Sunday 3rd May 12 – 4 – need weights for gazebo. Teddy Bears Picnic 17th May – need gazebo help & refreshments (Nickie offered) Allotment show – Nickie to do sales. Scarecrows – 12/13 Sept – Nickie to send out for help in July. Lights turn on – Hazel to do in Hall. Xmas stall 12 Dec</p> <p>Apple Day – we will discuss further but in theory the idea of doing in September was supported.</p> | <p>Ruth Nickie</p> <p>Nickie Nickie Hazel</p> |
| AOB | Catherine suggested a schedule of when juice will be sold should be put on website – all agreed good idea RHSO Email out of office message if urgent to go to ericandruthbuckmaster@yahoo.co.uk | <p>Nickie</p> <p>Nickie</p> |
| Next meeting | Next general meeting 28 th April – main item Teddy Bear Picnic | |

Meeting closed 20.40.