



9th Annual General Meeting 2018/19

Kings Head House, Tuesday, January 14th 2020 at 7.30pm

1. Attendees

David Aston (secretary), Gloria Morris (treasurer), Tom Low (chairman), Debbie Cunningham (Orchard Warden, Brownings), Emma Levan (Junior Section), Kevin Dalby (Orchard Warden Coneygree) John Morris, John Livingstone, Ed Davies, Wendy Fabbro, Andrea and Alex Steeden-Crane, Val Taylor.

Di Davies, Mary Gribble – apologies.

2. Approval of minutes of last AGM

All Approved and signed by chairman.

3. Chairman's report

Tom gave an overview of the ECO over the past 9 years. The committee and attendees gave their heartfelt thanks to Tom's chairmanship and thanked him very much for all his hard work. Future -2020 has started off wet!

4 Treasurer's report

Gloria reported a quiet year because of the pretty poor weather for the apples etc. The accounts were approved and signed by the chairman.

5 Coneygree Orchard Warden's report

Kevin said the orchard has reached the end of its development with 58 trees. Just a question now of looking after it.

For the future – what should we do about the fruit cage?

6 Brownings Orchard Warden's report

Debbie suggested that the hard graft is now required here rather than at Coneygree. All the little trees killed in the drought have now been replaced. We had a successful BBQ and we've made a start on building a path around the pond. A big thank you to John for all his mowing. Future – pruning the apple trees and completing the path. Gloria said Graham is willing to come before Easter to talk about the hedging.

7. Junior Section report

Achievements and plans from Emma the Forest School leader. Created a pond and the children said they really enjoyed helping building the path. They simply love the orchard and the fruit cage in particular.

Future – decking around the pond? Emma talked about some INTERESTING plans for a memorial garden. Emma says she would like to give them a project for the future – a so called Interpretation/information board? A possible bird- hide too using wood from the decaying fruit cage? Question from Wendy – about getting them up to Brownings Orchard too for a visit.

8. Planning for Apple Days

Now we have a smaller press, we could become more mobile in the future, especially since we now have our own kit. Alternative venues - possibly Brownings if we have a bottling plant somewhere else?

Andrea and Alex said they would be happy to host an apple day in October, if required. Emma asked whether we should consider planting more trees in the future, involving the children and the wider-public?

9. Election of Trustees

Wendy Fabbro elected to the post of Chairman.

Funding Trustee - Emma Levan said she would be willing to give it a try for the time being at least. Secretary and treasurer and orchard wardens were all re-elected and approved.

10. Any other business

Clothing for the younger members. Kevin suggested we might want to audit all our equipment and trees etc, so that we can best determine any future expenditure. That was agreed.

Meeting closed at 21:24.

David Aston

ECO Secretary

e-mail: secretary@eco.eastington.website



8th Annual General Meeting

Kings Head House, Monday, June 25th 2018 at 8.00 pm

MINUTES

Attendance : David Aston (secretary), Gloria Morris (Treasurer), Tom Low (Chairman), Debbie Cunningham (Orchard Warden, Brownings), Emma Levan (Junior Section), John Morris, John Livingstone, Sarah Booth, Bob Booth, Di Davies, Ed Davies, Nicola Rowlings, Wendy Fabbro, Andy Helps

Apologies: Kevin Dalby, Steve Gribble, Val Taylor, John Minall, Mark Jones

- 1 Approval of minutes of last AGM (already circulated) – approved and signed by Tom.
- 2 Treasurer's report by Gloria, including presentation of Accounts, which were approved. Gloria thanked the parish council for their £1,000 loan over the past 6 years, now paid off.
- 3 Funding Trustee's report on spending of grants by Tom. Conclusion – we have a lot of money now and should really be thinking of what we might want to spend it on. Having this money in the bank takes the pressure off the need for high production of apple juice, which used to be our main income source.
- 4 Coneygree Orchard Warden's report from Kevin. Tom delivered the report on Kevin's behalf.

59 fruit trees. 6 spaces available for new trees.

Pruning appears to be successful and grafting.

Some signs of parasite damage to plum trees. *(Note: Val Taylor has since identified the larvae as being ladybirds, who feed (heavily) on aphids. So we should just sit back and watch)*

To do – path renovation, removal of one raised bed – suggested this may go to Emma and the junior section. Signage and danger signs for the pond are being ordered.

What is happening with the mound?

- 5 Brownings Orchard Warden's report from Debbie. The site has now been cleared and a new hut built. It took six hours. Jobs coming up:- the footpath around the pond still needs sorting out and the bund will need weeding. Almost all the trees seem to be doing well, apart from one or two exceptions. It is less than half full currently with more planting planned for this Autumn.

- 6 Junior Section report – achievements and plans from Emma at the Raffles Forest School. Currently the children have been making a real difference. They have got very enthused with the idea of clearing the land and making a pond which started in March 2017. Pond was finally dug by Summer 2018. It's proved a big success and there is much planting still to do.

Help is still needed in terms of landscaping the area to re-inforce the bank and making the slope down to the pond just right to the youngsters to use. They also want a big significant mature willow tree if possible. Emma was told she could spend the money if she wanted to buy a tree. It was also suggested that the youngsters might be interested in helping produce apple juice after the various Apple Days.

- 7 Planning for Apple Days – sharing ideas. Duck races – Jam we have not got ready in time. We will miss it this year.
Early start? – in late Sept for beginning to sell @ Slimbridge 13th Oct.
Follow the crop – start gathering pears in Sept for Apple/Pear blend. We also have access to some extra Perry pears this year. It was decided to have a go this year with some extra expertise on hand from Andy.
Extra days at Half Term for the children to get involved - 22nd October agreed

- 8 Election of Trustees – Tom Chairman, David as Secretary, Brownings' warden Debs, Coneygree's warden Kevin, Gloria the Treasurer and Steve as Funding Trustee. Committee all re-elected.

David Aston

ECO Secretary

e-mail: secretary@eco.eastington.website