

**Minutes from the Connect General Meeting
4th September 2019
Room above the Salty Dog, Presteigne**

Present: Chair: Leon Abecasis (LA) Eva Venny (EV) Marian Rowlatt (MR) Mary Corbett (MC) Colin Felgate (CF) David Tennant Eyles (DTE) Helena Atlee (HA) Grace Loveday (GL) Sabina Rüber (SR) Carla Dyke (CD) David Ellison (DE)

Minute Taker: Francesca Sandwell (FS)

Apologies: Ann Wake (AW) David Pickersgill (DP) Annemarie Roberts (AR)

	Item	Action
1.	<p>Minutes from the meeting on 6th August 2019</p> <p>The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the previous meeting.</p> <p>MC queried whether she had received the minutes and LA will double check his distribution list.</p> <p>FS will do her best to ensure the minutes are circulated at least a week before the next meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Treasurer's report</p> <p>The current balance stands at £2,264.55</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August 6 people paid their subscriptions. • In September, £211 came into the account from the takings at Presteigne Carnival. This money will be split between Connect and the Youth Club. <p>Membership fees – HA updated that she had been in contact to follow up on membership. However, the list she had been given was not up-to-date.</p> <p>It was discussed whether there should be a business and associate membership and if so, how Connect would decide who falls into each category. A discussion took place. The current membership fees pays for the public liability insurance to ensure that Connect can put on events and entitled members to vote and make decisions. However, Connect did not wish to exclude anyone.</p> <p>LA stated that this could be discussed at a later date with members via email.</p>	
3.	<p>Christmas Fair</p> <p>It was queried whether there had been a vote on the location of the Christmas fair and whether it should take place at the church again this year.</p>	

	<p>Concern was expressed about taking the Christmas fair away from the High Street and that publicity was needed to promote late night shopping on the High Street.</p> <p>MC stated that she had received feedback from local people that the High Street need to be prioritised and that it would be good to see more window decorations.</p> <p>Action: MC will speak to the shops on the High Street to promote late night shopping on the evening of the Christmas fair.</p> <p>LA stated that he had spoken to businesses on the High Street and to parents who felt that it was too cold to be queuing outside the grotto. It was agreed that hosting the grotto inside the Church Hall was good as it provided much needed warmth. The weather last year was terrible so the fair was better suited to being in the church.</p> <p>A vote took place, with 7 people voting in favour of hosting the Christmas fair at the church.</p> <p>It was agreed that that late night shopping would be added to the publicity for the Christmas Fair.</p>	<p>MC</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Food and Flower Festival 2020</p> <p>For the past 2 years, the Food and Flower Festival has been very successful. However, with the first Monday bank holiday being cancelled and moved to the Friday to celebrate VE Day, it was felt that this disrupted Connect's plans to organise a festival in 2020.</p> <p>It was discussed whether Connect should cancel the Food and Flower Festival and celebrate VE day, or combine the 2 and get more groups involved. It was questioned whether anyone else was doing anything to mark VE day or whether the Food and Flower festival be held on a different date.</p> <p>EV stated that she did not believe that Connect was in a financial position to host another Food and Flower Festival and that the group should focus on fundraising instead. A break for a year would also mean that Connect could focus on other ideas and then put on a bigger and better event.</p> <p>DP has advised via email that the stallholders he had spoken to did not think there would be any repercussions if the festival was postponed for a year.</p> <p>MC, CD and LA all stated that they be happy to have the festival on a Saturday.</p> <p>It was suggested that the festival could be a bi-annual event.</p> <p>A vote took place. 6 people voted in favour of postponing the festival.</p> <p>HA suggested that Connect could organise an 'open gardens' event and serve cream teas later in the summer as a fundraiser.</p>	

	<p>CF raised that the quiz being held on 11th September was to raise money for the Food and Flower Festival and that Terry Wells would need to be informed.</p> <p>Action: EV to inform Terry Wells that the Food and Flower Festival will be postponed</p> <p>It was agreed that if VE events were to be organised in Presteigne then Connect would help support the celebrations.</p>	<p>EV</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Flamenco night</p> <p>LA updated that 40 tickets had been sold so far, but that in order to fill the hall, more tickets needed to be sold. LA has advertised the event in the Mid Wales Journal, which he has paid for himself. LA asked for help to sell tickets.</p> <p>SR joined the meeting at 18:56</p> <p>LA confirmed that he had everything sorted for the evening but would require support on the day, helping to set up, lay out tables, put up decorations and then help with the clean-up.</p> <p>Action: LA to send out an email requesting help for the flamenco night.</p>	<p>LA</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>DTE – the proposals of the B2B sub-committee were presented at the last meeting in the absence of its 3 members. DTE will circulate the group’s proposal to Connect members.</p> <p>DTE and HA have discussed a proposal for a business hub. This is a long-term project that will provide a place for hot-desking, workspaces, meeting rooms etc. A proposal has been put together to modernise the old school which would ensure that the building could be saved, increase the membership of Connect and support community groups and freelancers. DTE will check with the people who drafted the original plan that they are happy for the proposal to be circulated.</p> <p>DTE stated that he agreed that the B2B sub-committee needed to proceed with the questionnaire, as the data collected would determine what Connect should be doing. The format of the questionnaire will need to be confirmed and this can be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>EV – Terry Wells and Gerry McDonnell have designed a leaflet to promote what can and cannot be recycled. The cost of printing 1,000 leaflets is £35 and they have asked if Connect will fund the cost of the flyers.</p> <p>Action: EV to circulate the leaflet design so that members could vote by email as to whether they were happy for Connect to pay for the leaflets.</p>	<p>EV</p>

	<p>LA – LA updated the meeting that he had taken the decision to resign as Chair of Connect as he was no longer in a position to dedicate all his time and energy to the group. This would take place with immediate effect. LA will continue to support Connect and attend meetings. As Vice Chair, EV will take over the role.</p> <p>Connect members thanked LA for all his hard work and dedication to the role.</p>	
7.	Date and venue of the next meeting: 3 rd October at 6pm above the Salty Dog	