

**Minutes from the Connect General Meeting
6th November 2018
Leon's House, Presteigne**

Present: Chair: Leon Abecasis (LA) Eva Venny (EV) Sabiha Ruber (SR) Lysette Phillips (LP) Marion Rowlatt (MR) Annemarie Roberts (AR) Gerry McDonnell (GM)

Minute Taker: Francesca Sandwell (FS)

Apologies: Helena Attlee (HA) David Tennant-Eyles (DTE) Ann Wake (AW) David Pickersgill (DP)

	Item	Action
1.	<p>Minutes from the meeting on 2nd October</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the previous meeting.</p> <p>Actions:-</p> <p>LA to speak to the chip shop about an alternative to polystyrene - LA updated that he had not been able to get prices</p> <p>DP to create a plan of the food court – completed</p> <p>EV to create a plan for the tables in the church - completed</p>	
2.	<p>Treasurers report</p> <p>Current bank balance is £1,972.63</p> <p>Outgoings: £43.20 to Prestige Printing for Christmas Fair raffle tickets £20.00 for Christmas Fair £60.00 as a donation to Guerrilla Gardeners</p> <p>Incoming: £20.00 - Subscription</p>	
3.	<p>Working together</p> <p>LA updated that with many different groups in Presteigne working towards similar aims it made sense that the groups should be collaborating.</p> <p>EV reported that she and LA had recently attended a PAC meeting with representation from churches, day centre, Young Farmers and the Town Council. During the meeting the groups went through the community action plan that was drafted 2 years ago.</p> <p>The groups tried to identify who could action the different 12 topics which range from parking to shopping, leisure to green spaces.</p>	

	<p>Connect will take the lead on parking and car parks, improving the look of the high street and recycling centre and creating a register of businesses.</p> <p>It was agreed that this was a good idea. Connect has already donated £60 to the Guerrilla Gardeners to improve the look of Presteigne.</p> <p>LA advised that Gerry McDonnell would be attending future Connect meetings on behalf of PAC and EV would attend PAC meetings on behalf of Connect in order to allow the 2 groups to work more closely together.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Christmas Fair update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA updated that they wouldn't have reindeer at the fair but that they had been offered 2 alpacas who could be dressed up as reindeer. • There is a plan for the church with 13 full table and 5 half size tables available a further 6 full size tables could be made available. 8 full tables have been confirmed. • Food court: Weobley Ash will be present, but the Hat Shop, chip shop and Mark from the Real Wine Company have not yet been confirmed. The community café will serve tea and cake inside. • LA to follow up with the Hat Shop and chip shop as to whether they would like a food stall • LA to ask Sally Butler if she will promote the event on social media • DTE has applied for a temporary event licence and a lottery licence • DTE has booked Jack the Jester and Scrappies. It was discussed that the uneven nature of the ground needed to be taken into account when deciding where they needed to be located. It was decided that new entertainment should be looked into next year as the cost was £440. • Banners and leaflets/flyers are all in hand • DTE and LP to hand out leaflets and put up posters • Trees need to be ordered from Sonia and Nigel – 25 small trees and 1 large tree for the high street • It was agreed that Connect should offer Sonia and Nigel a free stall for their generosity with the trees. • The condition of the fairy lights needs to be ascertained • It was agreed that the porch by the food court would be decorated. • LA to buy mince pies • LA and AR to look at the cost of making / buying mulled wine • LA will research paper cup providers • Mince pies and mulled wine would be served in the courtyard by EV and SR • A poster will be needed which states the opening times of the grotto which will be situated in St. Andrews Hall 	<p>LA</p> <p>LA</p> <p>DTE & LP</p> <p>LA</p> <p>LA & AR</p> <p>LA</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MR will contact the primary school to confirm the choir can attend • So far the raffle has raised over £300 • The Connect committee was asked to provide prizes for the raffle. LA will ask the High Street for prizes • Help for Santa's grotto was discussed. EV will ask Young Farmers if they can assist. • Volunteers will be required to wrap presents for the grotto and bottles for blotto lotto on 4th December. • LP will need to buy small gifts • Everyone will need to begin collecting screw top wine bottles for blotto lotto • LP will complete a risk assessment for the grotto • Santa's grotto – Pope and LA had a site meeting. LA will speak to the Assembly Rooms about borrowing their curtains to create the grotto. • JTE will need to book the fire engine to lead the procession from the primary school to the church. It was agreed that it would be great to have a horse and cart for next year. • Rory Bennett will put up the lights in the trees around the church. LA to confirm the arrangements. • DTE will need to collect the tables from the town hall • LA will speak to the electrician about providing power to the food stalls • Alison Parry will provide bins for the food court area. • Volunteers will be required to set up on the day • The alpacas will be located under the trees near the porch. LA will confirm if the alpacas need to be penned in with hurdles. • GM will circulate an email to the Bring Site volunteers asking for help marshalling, setting up etc, • Volunteers will be required to clean up the next morning 	<p>MR</p> <p>LA EV</p> <p>LP</p> <p>LP</p> <p>LA</p> <p>JTE</p> <p>LA</p> <p>DTE</p> <p>GM</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Food and Flower Festival</p> <p>The group needs to begin having meetings once the Christmas Fair has taken place.</p> <p>LA confirmed that discussions were already taking place.</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 12th December.</p> <p>GM raised that Connect needed to consider who would be responsible for the security of the FFF website when a platform for hosting the site was being chosen. For just £10 a year this could be taken care of.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date and venue of next meeting: TBC</p>	