

**Minutes from the Connect Annual General Meeting  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
The Old School House, Presteigne**

**Present:** Leon Abecasis (LA) David Tennant-Eyles (DTE) James Tennant-Eyles (JTE) Eva Venny (EV) Ann Wake (AW) Colin Felgate (CF)

**Minute Taker:** Francesca Sandwell

**Apologies:** None

	Item	Action
1	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>None</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes from the AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017</b></p> <p>The minutes were read and approved as a true and accurate account.</p>	
3	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>This completes my first year as Chair and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and guidance.</p> <p>It has been a busy and testing year for Connect. This time last year we were faced with the decision as to whether or not we should fold the then Chamber of Trade due to a lack of members. It was decided that we should re-brand and after much discussion we decided to call it Connect. This was done in the hope that we would attract new members and whilst we have managed to sign up a handful of new people, we are still faced with uncertainty and the drive to recruit more members continues. However, despite this we have managed to be active on a number of fronts.</p> <p>In July 2017, we attended the Presteigne Carnival. We decide that this would be an opportunity to launch Connect and whilst the number of people attending were high, we found that the placement of the Connect stand was isolated and therefore the numbers of people visiting the stand was disappointing. This was mentioned to the Carnival organisers.</p> <p>The ongoing problem with parking continues to frustrate shoppers and shop owners alike, so Connect decided to address this by financially supporting a Friday and Saturday one-hour free parking at the 'Shoppers' car park for a period of 4 weekends. This was done with the help of PAC, public volunteers and Connect members and proved that free parking for one hour was needed to attract more customers to the town. The cost of this project was £261.55. Connect and PAC presented this to PCC, which fell upon</p>	

	<p>deaf ears. Our quest continues.</p> <p>The Christmas Fair was held in December and despite the freezing temperatures it was well attended. The stalls and the consistent entertainment throughout the event kept the children and parents happy. Father Christmas was kept very busy throughout the day and I would like to say a big thank you to Pope for stepping into the white boots. In fact, he enjoyed it so much that he has promised to step in again this year!</p> <p>A big thank you also to all the shop keepers who contributed to the event with window displays and late opening. Also, I would like give a special thank you to David Tennant-Eyles for co-ordinating the event and to all the volunteers. Without their help this event would not be possible. I am also pleased to report that the event only made a £20.00 loss and our target for this year is to break even.</p> <p>The Bring site continues to bring in much needed funds and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the volunteers for their continued support and the amazing job they are doing which without their help this would not be possible.</p> <p>Most of this year has been taken up with the planning of the Food and Flower Festival and this has been a massive undertaking for Connect. The preparation has been relentless and as we approach the final couple of weeks all we can hope for is good weather. If it was only down to the planning then the event would be a great success. I am overwhelmed by the support, enthusiasm and time that every member of the team has given and last but not least, Eva, who is definitely the power behind the throne.</p> <p>JTE wished it to be noted that Powys County Council's insurance for the Bring Site had not been satisfactory and that an alternative provider had been found. This insurer specialises in small charities and understands the risks better so the volunteers are now covered at a more reasonable cost. A detailed report of income and expenditure had been provided and circulated to the Bring Site volunteers.</p>	
4	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>DTE updated that Connect's accounts had been signed off by Steve Powell, Connect's accountant, and a written letter of approval had been received.</p> <p>A copy of the full accounts is available to view.</p> <p>As of 28/02/2018, the balance was £4,003.98 in Connect's main account, with £227.29 in Connect's savings account and £0.95 interest in another account.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding consolidating the 3 accounts.</p> <p>JTE stated that it was good to keep the savings account to separate funds that had been earmarked or raised for a particular</p>	

	<p>purpose. For example, the gazebos for the Food and Flower festival. This account could be re-named the “Project Account” and would ensure that the current account gave an accurate reflection of money available.</p> <p><b>Profit and Loss report for Connect: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b></p> <p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring Site – £3,143.11</li> <li>• Subscriptions – £184.50</li> <li>• Christmas Fair – (20.13)</li> <li>• Donations – (75.00)</li> <li>• Food and Flower Festival 2018 (180)</li> <li>• Free Parking Project – (£261.55)</li> <li>• Christmas lights installation (£1,247)</li> </ul> <p><b>Sales (Total) £1,543.93</b></p> <p>Investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Savings account interest received: £0.12</li> </ul> <p>Total Revenue (Turnover) £1,544.05</p> <p>Indirect Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secretary – £425 (including a £150 honorarium paid to Liz Joyce, the previous secretary)</li> <li>• Admin Costs – £1.99.59 (for a Connect banner and flyers)</li> <li>• Insurance – £87.00</li> <li>• Indirect Expenses (total) – £711.59</li> </ul> <p>Total expenses - £711.59</p> <p><b>Net income £832.46</b></p>	
5	<p><b>The Future of Connect</b></p> <p>JTE updated that he had changed the name on the insurance from ‘Presteigne and Norton Chamber of Trade’ to ‘Connect’.</p> <p>The constitution has also been updated.</p> <p><b>Action: DTE to speak to the bank about changing the name on the account to Connect.</b></p>	DTE
6	<p><b>Nominations Committee</b></p> <p>JTE thanked LA and DTE for all their hard work and Peter Mace, Vice Chair, for the support he had given.</p> <p>The following positions on the Committee were nominated and</p>	

	<p>seconded:</p> <p>Chair – Leon Abecasis Vice Chair – Eva Venny Treasurer – David Tennant-Eyles</p> <p>It was felt that the Committee did not need to elect someone to be in charge of Social Media.</p> <p>DTE stated that he was happy to continue with the creative side of things.</p> <p>The AGM ended at 7:45pm</p>	
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