

**Minutes from the Connect General Meeting
11th June 2019
Bowling Social Club, Presteigne**

Present: Chair: Leon Abecasis (LA) Eva Venny (EV) David Tennant Eyles (DTE) James Tennant Eyles (JTE) Helena Atlee (HA) Annemarie Roberts (AR) Marian Rowlatt (MR) Sabina Rüber (SR) David Pickersgill (DP) Colin Felgate (CF)

Minute Taker: Francesca Sandwell (FS)

Apologies: Ann Wake (AW) Mary Cobbett (MC)

	Item	Action
1.	<p>Minutes from the previous meeting</p> <p>The minutes from the Food and Flower debrief on 13th May 2019 were not discussed.</p>	
2.	<p>Treasurer's report</p> <p>The profit and loss report for the year, 1st March 2018 to 28th February 2019, was discussed. The current balance stands at £1,926.55. Connect still needs to raise £1,344.10 to pay for the gazebos. The cost of insurance has come down by £90 for the year.</p> <p>The Food and Flower festival made a loss of £1600 but this was because Connect did not host a fundraiser before the Festival so the loss was to be expected.</p> <p>EV requested a budget for next year's Food and Flower Festival. DTE stated that he would do a full comparison and that this could be discussed at a separate meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Connect – our objectives</p> <p>The future of Connect was discussed. LA stated that relationships have been forged with businesses both on the High Street and cottage industries and Presteigne has been promoted as 'destination shopping'. LA reported that since the Food and Flower Festival more people have been coming to his shop.</p> <p>However, where does Connect go from here?</p> <p>SR stated that the group had lots of ideas, but that the problem was that Connect did not have enough people and therefore there was a limit to what the group could do. It was agreed that Connect needed to continue to operate at its current level and continue to expand on what it was doing well rather than overstretch itself.</p> <p>DP felt that Connect as hitting one of its objectives through the organisation of the Christmas Fayre and the Food and Flower Festival. However, Connect needed to encourage more people to get involved following the success of the 2 events.</p>	

LA stated that the Twinning Committee wanted to work more closely with Connect and would support the flamenco fundraising night.

HA suggested that Connect could approach stallholders who had taken part in the Food and Flower Festival and ask them to join Connect for £20 and perhaps offer them a free pitch at the next festival as an incentive.

Action: DP to ask stallholders if they wished to be Connect members.

EV indicated that Connect needed to find other ways of funding the Food and Flower Festival i.e. sponsorship.

LA stated that he had spoken to Premier, Bryn Roberts and Presteigne Building Suppliers and they were all keen to support the festival. Radnor Springs Connect needed to choose two charities to support during the Food and Flower Festival as this might help to recruit sponsorship.

It was agreed that Connect would not charge entry to the festival, but that Connect could run the car parks themselves and then money raised would help with the running of the event.

HA raised that the plant sale at Broxwood recently made £10k profit, £5k of which was raised from selling soup, tea and cake. In future, St Andres could be turned into a café, which could be run by Connect to raise more money.

The cost of putting on the festival was discussed. HA suggested that Connect could ask stallholders to donate prizes and these could then be raffled to raise money for Connect.

EV raised that someone needed to be in charge of keeping an eye on membership and ensuring that people paid their subscriptions. A new email address would need to be set up so that email reminders could be sent out and a blurb about what Connect had achieved over the past year would need to be written.

Action: DTE to set up new email address (info@presteigneconnect)

Action: HA to draft a blurb about Connect's achievements over the past year

The idea of seminars was discussed again. It was agreed that Connect needed businesses to tell them what they wanted. It was felt that no one had the time to organise events such as seminars or networking/breakfast meetings. However, this needed to be kept on the back burner for the time being.

The idea of forming sub-committees going forward was discussed. It was agreed that the various committees would report to Connect at

	<p>its monthly meetings and seek approval for ideas etc..</p> <p>It was agreed that 6 people would be required for the Food and Flower Festival sub-committee.</p>	
4.	<p>Christmas Fayre</p> <p>It was agreed that Connect would discuss the event at the next meeting and that a sub-group needed to be formed.</p> <p>MR confirmed that the church had been booked for 13th December.</p> <p>HA will find out the dates for the Presteigne pantomime so that the Christmas Fayre did not clash with this event.</p> <p>The Kington Food Festival is set to take place on the first weekend in December so this weekend needs to be avoided.</p>	
5.	<p>Fundraising</p> <p>LA reported that he was hosting a flamenco and tapas evening on 14th September. Tickets would cost £25 each and it was hoped that 100 tickets would be sold.</p> <p>Action: LA to send DTE the artwork for the fundraising post so that I can be branded with Connect's logo.</p>	
6.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Colin Felgate – CF reported that the company that puts up the Christmas lights is no longer able to provide the service. Presteigne and Norton Town Council is looking into finding someone else to do this. CF suggested that Connect could revert to being a subcontractor and charging the Town Council for putting up the lights. This would involve hiring a cherry picker and the insurance to put up the lights. However, Connect needed to bear in mind the current company keeps and maintains the lights. However, the Town Council could pay someone else to provide this service. CF indicated that he was prepared to put up the lights, but would need to go on a refresher course before he could use a cherry picker again. This cost could be covered by Connect</p> <p>Action: CF to draft a proposal in respect of the Christmas lights and bring it back to the next meeting.</p> <p>Action: DTE to check Connect's insurance policy to ensure that CF is covered to put up the Christmas lights.</p> <p>Eva Venny – EV reported that Terry Wells had emailed to say that the 2 notice boards in town were out of date and that a working party was needed to maintain them. Presteigne and Norton Trust will respond after their AGM in August. JTE indicated that he would be Connect's representative.</p>	

7.	Next meeting: 6 th August 2019	
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