

**Minutes from the Connect General Meeting
24th April 2018
The Old School House, Presteigne**

Present: Chair 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>Minutes from the meeting on 5th March 2018</p> <p>LA stated that he had forgotten to bring copies of the previous minutes. However, they had been circulated and no issues had arisen. Therefore, the minutes from the meeting on 5th March discussed and approved.</p>	
2.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>The balance as of 24th April 2018 stands at £4,919.58.</p> <p>Money out:</p> <p>£161.29 to Artisan £193.11 to Orphans Press £130 for carpark closure £24 to Welsh Tourism Board Listing</p> <p>Incoming:</p> <p>£490 from stall income £1,224 from Citrus Dinner tickets</p>	
3.	<p>Mrs Wood's 100th Birthday</p> <p>JTE updated that Mrs Wood, a long-time supporter of the Chamber of Trade along with her husband Commander Wood would be celebrating her 100th birthday in September. It was suggested that Connect might like to give Mrs Wood a gift to celebrate her birthday.</p> <p>AW suggested that Connect could refurbish the peacock bench on the corner of St David Street and the High Street which had been given in memory of Commander Wood and needed to be repaired.</p> <p>CF and EV both suggested that a plaque could be erected in town in Mrs Wood's honour.</p> <p>However, it was decided that Connect should present Mrs Wood with something that she could keep. A carved wooden bowl from</p>	

	David Preece was suggested. JTE will speak with David and feedback at the next Connect meeting.	
4.	<p>Presteigne Carnival</p> <p>LA reported that he had received an email from one of the Carnival organisers asking if Connect would like to have a stall at this year's event.</p> <p>It was agreed that Connect would like to take part, but that the stall last year was not in a suitable place. LA will send an email and ask if Connect can be positioned on the main site instead.</p> <p>It was queried whether Connect should suggest the idea of an area for community groups.</p> <p>A stall at the carnival will provide a good opportunity for Connect to promote its work and highlight the work of the Bring Site.</p>	
5.	<p>PAC Funding</p> <p>At the last meeting it was agreed that £500 would be given to PAC for them to distribute to community groups and projects.</p> <p>It was agreed that this money would be donated to PAC after the Food and Flower Festival.</p>	
6.	<p>Business Directory and Industrial Estate sign</p> <p>This item was previously discussed at the meeting on 29th January 2018 when Terry Wells came to talk to Connect about a joint project.</p> <p>JTE reiterated that the business directory was a good idea but that it would be challenging to keep it up-to-date and get everyone involved.</p> <p>AW suggested that Connect might be able to get Welsh Government funding for the sign at the industrial estate.</p> <p>CF felt that a business directory would be easier to maintain if it was online.</p> <p>It was agreed that this item should be scheduled for the next meeting where more time could be dedicated to it.</p>	
7.	<p>Food and Flower Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gazebo purchase <p>Presteigne and Norton Town Council has agreed to purchase and look after the gazebos so that other groups can use them.</p> <p>There are two options:</p>	

	<p>a) A gazebo made from aluminium which will cost £3,000 plus VAT for 10 with a 10% discount</p> <p>b) A gazebo made from heavy duty steel which will cost £2,300 including VAT for 10</p> <p>It was felt that although the aluminium gazebos were significantly more expensive, they would be better quality and would last longer.</p> <p>It was agreed by all present that the more expensive gazebos should be purchased. £2,000 has been ring fenced to purchase the gazebos and Connect committed to raising another £1,000 to cover the cost by holding another fundraising event.</p> <p>It was agreed by 4 votes to 2 that the colour of the gazebos should be black.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Went's Meadow Overflow Car Park <p>Presteigne and Norton Town Council has agreed that Went's Meadow can be used as an overflow car park.</p> <p>AW raised that several people would be needed to marshal the car park and ensure the safety of children. The car parking area will need to be fenced off.</p> <p>LA will speak to John Wilding about fence posts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road closure sign <p>It was agreed that pre-warning signs needed to be displayed and that a letter from Connect to residents needed to be sent.</p> <p>DTE stated that he was happy to have his Connect email address included on the letter and EV's telephone number will also be included.</p> <p>EV will send the letter to DTE so it can be put on the Connect letter head.</p> <p>The road will be closed from 7am on Monday 7th May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hi-Vis vests <p>JTE has 25 vests that can be used for the Food and Flower Festival.</p>	
8.	<p>Christmas Fair</p> <p>This item will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Network Event</p> <p>EV updated that it was hoped that we could attract the people involved in helping with the Food and Flower Festival to join</p>	

	<p>Connect.</p> <p>Connect needs to look at organising new events that will attract people. The idea of a breakfast networking group was discussed. This would provide a platform to meet likeminded people.</p> <p>However, it was raised by several people that Connect had nothing to offer and no benefits in place that might attract people.</p> <p>It was agreed that this item would be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>LA updated that the Duck's Nest was being taken over by David Ellison who previously ran the Harp and would specialise in Italian food.</p> <p>The Radnorshire Arms has been bought by an investment group and is currently being refurbished.</p>	
11.	<p>Date and venue of next meeting</p> <p>5th June 2018 – venue tbc</p>	