

**Minutes from the Connect General Meeting
8th January 2019
Leon's House, Presteigne**

Present: Chair: Leon Abecasis (LA) Eva Venny (EV) Sabiha Rüber (SR) Marion Rowlatt (MR) Annemarie Roberts (AR) Colin Felgate (CF) Helena Attlee (HA) David Tennant-Eyles (DTE) David Pickersgill (DP) Mary Cobbett (MC) Lysette Phillips (LP)

Guests: Carrie Ede (CE) Grace Loveday (GL)

Minute Taker: Francesca Sandwell (FS)

Apologies: Ann Wake (AW)

	Item	Action
1.	<p>Minutes from the meeting on 12th December 2018</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the previous meeting.</p> <p>Actions:-</p> <p>There were no actions from the meeting held on 12th December 2018.</p>	
2.	<p>Treasurers report</p> <p>Current bank balance stands at £3,768.72</p> <p>Incoming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,301.62 – payment for the upkeep of the Bring Site from Powys County Council <p><u>Christmas Fair</u></p> <p>This year's Fair made a profit of £33.77 in comparison to the last year when the Fair made a loss of £20.12</p> <p>A donation of £200 was made to the church and the Fair did well considering that the sale of hot dogs and mince pies made half as much money as last year.</p> <p>DTE will circulate a full breakdown to Connect Members via Dropbox.</p>	DTE
3.	<p>Christmas Fair debrief</p> <p>LA thank everyone for their help and noted that the Christmas Fair had been a great success.</p> <p>CF stated that the event the Church had been the perfect venue for the Fair especially because of the bad weather.</p>	

Feedback from AW via email

Comment for possible improvements –

Inside Church was extremely crowded and very difficult to negotiate around stalls with small children in tow.

- It was noted that there was a bottle neck in the church and that the layout of the tables would need to be looked at if the Fair was to be held in the church again.

Cars parked on double yellow lines at narrowest bit of Broad Street. Fire engines would not have got passed. Recommend asking police if they will help next time with no parking cones to reinforce safety issue as it is out of our control.

- This is an ongoing problem for Broad Street and the area outside the church. Next year, stewards would be needed to monitor this and prevent people parking near the entrance to the church

Scallions pavement was very slippery with fallen wet leaves. Worth asking volunteer street cleaning group to target if using same venue next year. Lethal to negotiate on crutches or for small children.

- It was stated that the clearing of the pavements was the Council's responsibility and that the wet and windy weather would not have made this practical.

Feedback from Stallholders

- All were very happy about being in the church as it was dry and warm
- However, lots of people stayed only for a short time because of the weather and being in the church rather than on the High Street meant that people didn't linger, nor did they pick up trade from people coming out of the pubs
- Weobley Ash's takings were 30% down on last year

Feedback from Connect

It was discussed whether there was any possibility of holding the Fair on both the High Street and at the church. However, the idea of multiple sites was dismissed as impractical.

However, better signage was needed to direct people from the High Street to the church and it was discussed whether some stalls could be situated on Broad Street.

There was also disconnect with the Primary School as only a dozen children came down from the school. It is uncertain what happened but this needs to be better managed next time.

MC stated that that while her business didn't suffer from the Fair being at the church, people in the community had noted that it was

	<p>a different experience.</p> <p>LA stated that because the street was not closed off, the Salty Dog took more money than in previous years. The Butchers were also happy as they hadn't lost trade and the Fish and Chip shop picked up business as a result of the Fair.</p> <p>MC raised that it was a lot of effort for shops on the High Street to move all of their stock to the church. LA appreciated this, but stated that New Moon did very well at the Fair.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Church Hall was a better venue for the Santa's Grotto, but that clearer signage was needed to direct people to the Grotto.</p> <p>It was discussed whether to hold the Fair on a different weekend from the Presteigne Pantomime. Pope, who was Father Christmas, had to leave early as he had to be at the Pantomime. It was agreed that the Fair would be held on Friday 13th December 2019 instead.</p> <p>MR confirmed that the Church would be very happy to host the Fair again. DTE confirmed that the Primary School would be very happy to be involved again.</p> <p>It was agreed by Members of Connect that the Fair in 2019 would be held at the Church again.</p> <p>The following improvements needed to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better signage to the event - Better lighting along the path leading to the church - Marshalls for Broad Street to prevent people from parking their cars and blocking the road - Location of the food stalls would need to be considered - Incorporating the High Street and Broad Street needed to be discussed – AW should be asked to see if her courtyard could be used for some stalls <p>Action: MR will check that the Church is available on 13th December</p> <p>The Christmas trees on the High Street were discussed. The lights on the smaller trees were not reliable and required 75 batteries every year to power them. The large tree by the Duck's Nest needed to look more festive. It was suggested that children could be invited to create decorations for it.</p>	MR
4.	<p>Food and Flower Festival update</p> <p>DP confirmed that there was space for 36 stalls, which was 2 more than last year. The location of stalls needed to be stricter in order not to upset local shops and businesses. The pop up bar will not be situated opposite the Dukes.</p> <p>Broad Street continued to pose a problem as it could not be closed</p>	

	<p>off. However, if a solution could be found to prevent people from parking there and keep stalls on the left hand side then this might mitigate the risk. It was suggested that someone needed to speak to AW about using her courtyard for some of the stalls.</p> <p>DP stated that if everyone was in agreement with his list of potential businesses then he would contact them all to confirm.</p> <p>Action: All Connect Members to get back to DP within a week as to whether they are in agreement with the list of stalls who should be invited to participate at the Festival.</p> <p>It was suggested that flower and plant stalls could be located in the Collins' garden on Broad Street and in the church yard to make more space for food stalls on the High Street.</p> <p>It was agreed that the demonstrations were very popular and provided something for free which people appreciated and therefore should be run again. Workshops on how to make flower crowns would be held in the back room of the Assembly Rooms which people would need to book on the day and pay £5 for.</p> <p>It was decided that the Ready Steady Cook event would not be run again.</p> <p>Action: MR will book the Church Hall for Saturday, Sunday and Monday.</p> <p>Tea and cake could be served in a marquee in the church yard as there was nowhere to sit on the High Street.</p> <p>MR updated that she had 5 new gardens (all within walking distance) and that they would be open to the public from 2pm-5pm. The timings would need to be advertised better this year to avoid people turning up early.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>MR</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Food and Flower Festival (FFF) website</p> <p>It was discussed whether the current page on the Town Council website should be used for to promote the FFF or if there should be a separate website for the FFF.</p> <p>It was decided that a new website should be developed so that the team had full access to the site and could easily update it. This would be linked to the page on the Town Council website and would provide the FFF with more visibility especially to those people who do not use Facebook.</p> <p>Sally Butler should be approached to assist with the development of the new website.</p> <p>A brief will need to be written so that the website could be developed. This will need to be done at a separate meeting, either on the following Tuesday or Wednesday at 6pm.</p>	

<p>6.</p>	<p>Presteigne & Norton Business Directory</p> <p>LA updated that Mark Williams had indicated that he would be happy to take this project on.</p> <p>The format of the directory was discussed. LA stated that he saw it taking on more of a 'Yellow Pages' format. EV thought that it would be laminated card that could be kept on the fridge. The benefits of having the directory online were also discussed. It was not felt that the directory would compete with the Parish Magazine.</p> <p>One benefit of the directory was that it could be a way of recruiting more members. For example, for £20 local businesses could join and be featured in the directory.</p> <p>It was agreed that the directory was a good idea and that a separate meeting with Mark Williams and Terry Wells from PAC would be needed to discuss this further.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Plastic Free Presteigne</p> <p>EV updated that it would be fairly feasible to get plastic free status for Presteigne. However, it can only be achievable if Connect works in collaboration with PAC and Transition Presteigne.</p> <p>LA reported that the Fish and Chip shop were now using paper bags instead of plastic and that an alternative to polystyrene trays was being looked into.</p> <p>It was noted that alternative plastic resources could be listed in the new business directory.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Helping the High Street</p> <p>DTE updated that AW had sent him a link to a new app called 'Helping the High Street' which kept consumers up-to-date with what was happening on their high street.</p> <p>DTE will circulate an email with more information.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>MC reported that she had been to a recent breakfast meeting in Knighton where they had discussed developing the relationship between businesses in Knighton, Kington and Presteigne.</p> <p>MC will share more information on this at the next meeting.</p> <p>The future direction of Connect and the idea of sub-groups was discussed. LA asked Members to consider whether they would be interested in taking the lead on any current or new projects. For example, the FFF website. This would allow meetings to be more focused, with teams updating on their progress and allow Connect</p>	

	Members to focus on multiple projects, rather than just organising events. LA asked Members to let either himself or EV know if they were interested.	
10.	Date and venue of next meeting: 8 th February at 6:15pm, Leon's House.	