

**Minutes from the Connect General Meeting
7th August 2018
The Salty Dog, Presteigne**

Present: Chair Eva Venny (EV) Leon Abecasis (LA) Helena Attlee (HA) Sabiha Ruber Marian Rollat (MR)

Minute Taker: Francesca Sandwell

Apologies: David Tennant-Eyles (DTE) James Tennant-Eyles (JTE) Ann Wake (AW) Colin Felgate (CF)

	Item	Action
1.	<p>Minutes from the meeting on 10th July 2018</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate reflection of the previous meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>New Members</p> <p>Connect welcome new member, frances</p> <p>LA updated that he had not yet managed to speak to Sam from the Wine Bar, Nigel from Presteigne Tyres, Sarah Bamford and Helen from</p> <p>HA will speak to Gilly at the Rowan Tree about becoming a member.</p> <p>LA will also follow up with Mary from the Deli and David Ellison from the Duck's Nest.</p> <p>LA updated that the Moroccan will be taken over in September so they will be approached.</p> <p>EV raised that it would be good to have someone who could take ownership of membership.</p> <p>HA stated that she would be happy to keep an up-to-date record of who was a member.</p> <p>The form on the website also needed to be looked at</p> <p>It was agreed that there should be 1 date where everyone paid.</p> <p>It was queried what people received for their £20 membership fee. At the very least, it was felt that an annual newsletter should be produced to celebrate what we have done and prompt people to pay. It was hoped that this could be sent out soon in order to encourage more people to join and promote the Christmas fayre.</p>	

	<p>LA will write the news update and then send to DTE so it can be branded.</p> <p>HA indicated that she would be happy to be involved.</p> <p>PAC could help with promoting the newsletter by circulating in their newsletter.</p> <p>Action: HA to look at the membership form and make suggestions of how it can be more user friendly</p> <p>Action: LA to send some wording for the newsletter to HA.</p>	<p>HA</p> <p>LA</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Treasurers report</p> <p>DTE was not present but had sent a report via email.</p> <p>The current balance stands at £2,270.83</p> <p>Incoming:</p> <p>£20 subscription from Wine for Friends £216 from Presteigne Carnival which will be split equally between Connect and the Youth Club. £140 for 4 tickets from the citrus dinner</p> <p>Outgoings:</p> <p>£500 for PAC so that this can be distributed for community projects £21.00 for the Carnival</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Christmas Fayre</p> <p>LA stated that he was really keen to do something different this year and host the Christmas Fayre down at St Andrews Hall with a Santa's grotto, food stalls in the courtyard and with carol singing in the church. Rory Bennet has said that he will put up the lights in the trees for £50.</p> <p>LA stated that he felt the Christmas fayre should be about giving something back to the community and reported that he actually lost money on the day of the Christmas fayre due to the closure of the High Street at 12 noon.</p> <p>MR stated that the reason she wanted to be involved was to that she would like the Christmas fayre to be centred around the church and that she would arrange and lead the carol signing.</p> <p>However, traders on the High Street will want to know how the connection will be made between the High Street and St Andrews.</p> <p>It was discussed whether to have food and drinks along the High Street and then crafts and a grotto at St Andrew's hall. However, by not closing the road this will save £300 which could be used to pay</p>	

	<p>for the reindeers which cost £500. LA stated that he would be happy to donate £100 to cover the cost and the idea of a reindeer fund was discussed. This could be set up in shops so that people could donate towards the cost of the reindeers.</p> <p>LA suggested that Presteigne could have 2 events – a Christmas fayre and a Christmas wonderland. However, this idea was vetoed.</p> <p>To ensure that everyone is on board Connect will need to tell traders as soon as possible that the Christmas Fayre will be held somewhere different and that the High Street will not be closed.</p> <p>The Christmas fayre subcommittee will include:- LA, David Pickering, AW, EV, DTE, MR, HA and SR. A meeting will be held on 21st August to discuss the Christmas Fayre further.</p> <p>As only 5 members were present the meeting was not able to vote</p> <p>Action: EV to draft and email for LA and HA to approve which can be sent to all members asking them to vote on which idea they liked the best.</p> <p>Action: MR will ask the vicar how much it will cost to have the church open for the Christmas Fayre</p>	<p>EV</p> <p>MR</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Networking Group</p> <p>LA stated that this event could not be held at the Workhouse.</p> <p>A new venue will need to be found but this depends on the number of people who would like to come.</p> <p>Action: LA to speak to Sally Butler and see if she would be happy to give a talk on social media on 3rd October.</p>	<p>LA</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Fundraising Event</p> <p>LA has asked the flamenco dancers if they are available but has not heard back.</p> <p>Action: LA to follow up with the flamenco dancers and see if they are available for the fundraising event</p>	<p>LA</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Website for the Food and Flower Festival –</p> <p>It was agreed that the website could be hosted on either Wordpress or Weebly as they were free. It does not need to be complicated and must be simple to allow the team to make changes themselves. Need to ensure it has a contacts page.</p> <p>Action: LA to speak to Sally Butler about the design of a</p>	

	<p>website for the Food and Flower Festival</p> <p>Plastic Free Presteigne –</p> <p>LA updated that an email of support had been written from Connect to Wendy Toomey. However, there seemed to be some confusion as to whether this project needed to be led by Connect or Transition.</p> <p>Connect will draft a letter with questions to find out if businesses use alternatives to plastics, and if not, why not. This way, we can find out what the barriers are.</p> <p>LA stated that he had spoken to the Fish and Chip shop. They are using paper bags instead of plastic bags, but think that customers like to have a polystyrene tray. However looking to get samples of alternative packaging. The Wine Bar is now using paper straws,</p> <p>Mary at the Deli is looking at alternatives to the black plastic trays for salads. Also, you get 10p off when you reuse the plastic tub for your olives</p> <p>Therefore, it would appear that people are already thinking about the changes they can make which is good for the project.</p>	<p>LA</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date and venue of next meeting: 4th September 2018</p>	