Minutes of the Connect General Meeting

29th January 2018

Radnorshire Oak Room, Radnorshire Arms

Present: Chair: Leon Abercasis (LA) David Tennant Eyles (DTE) Eva Venny (EV) Colin

Felgate (CF) Lysette Phillips (LP) James Tennant Eyles (JTE)

Minute Taker: Francesca Sandwell

Guests: Gerry McDonnell and Terry Wells

Apologies: Peter Mace (PM)

	Item	Action
1	Minutes and actions	
	The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and approved.	
2	Treasurers report	
	Current balance stands at £2,774.11	
	Outgoings included: £1,247 for the Christmas light installation – however, Connect will not be paying for this in 2018 £261.55 to LA for the free parking initiative in the summer £132.50 for Christmas trees	
	Money coming in: £922.87 from the Bring Site recycling £4.50 - Bennetts subscription paid early	
3	Gerry McDonnell – recycling area	
	Gerry McDonnell explained that that there were 5 volunteers who helped to keep the Bring Site tidy but they needed more volunteers.	
	Connect members expressed concern that if they did not support the site then they could lose a valuable contribution to the community.	
	LA stated that he would be happy to cover Mondays.	
	Insurance for the volunteers at the Bring Site was discussed. JTE stated that Connect has insurance but thought this covered members and not volunteers.	
	Action: LA to find a copy of Powys County Council's public liability insurance and send to Gerry McDonnell.	LA
	Action: JTE to look into the finer details of Connect's insurance policy and inform Gerry McDonnell.	JTE
	It was decided that Connect should do something to thank the	

	volunteers for all their hard work and the income they generated. It was agreed that Connect would organise an evening of food and drink on Monday 12 th March at the Wine Bar. It was agreed that the cost would be born out of money not from the Bring Site. Action: LA to speak to Sam at the Wine Bar about putting on a buffet. It was agreed that a social / recruitment event should be held to raise the profile of Connect and increase the membership in the Spring. This should be separate from the AGM and would be free to attend. For example, a cheese and wine evening. Terry Wells will publicise what the Brig Site money has been spent on in the past to help recruit more volunteers for the recycling site. Action: JTE to send Terry Wells information about what Connect	LA
	has used the Bring Site money to support.	JIL .
4	Terry Wells – PACDG proposal	
	Terry Wells explained that PACDG had written to Connect to ask for some of the income from the Bring Site to put towards community projects. The group has produced a register of local organisations which can be viewed on the Judges Lodgings website. The next idea is to indentify companies on the industrial estates and to create a proper sign that lists all the companies. This would help to provide information to the community and by working in partnership with Connect it could help increase membership and get more local business involved in local community projects.	
	Connect members agreed that this was a good idea and that they needed to approach business that were not on the High Street.	
	JTE indicated that Connect would need to offer something in order to get businesses on the industrial estate involved and that maybe a sign would help. However, it could be expensive and it would require ownership to help maintain it. This could be a joint project between Connect and PACDG.	
	LA and EV agreed that they would speak to people on the industrial estate about Connect.	
5	Christmas Fair Analysis	
	DTE stated that the fair has almost broken even and this was a great improvement compared to the previous year when the fair lost £647. The last time the fair made a profit was in 2007. The raffle, for example, raised £830 and would have been higher if it	
	had been started earlier. The road closure cost £330. LA confirmed that he had managed to negotiate with Powys County Council and that the road closure for the Food and Flower festival would cost £260.	

	LP indicated that she thought Jack the Jester was too expensive at £350 and that there were other performers who would be more reasonable.	
	LA explained that there had been some negative comments from people who came and traders including that there was not enough stalls on the high street and that people didn't stay for long enough or spend as much money.	
	For example, the mulled wine stall didn't turn up and wine and sausages only made £110 rather than £306 like the previous year.	
	DTE commented that the weather on the night was cold and that not enough stalls had been booked. Next year DTE will be in charge of stalls for next year.	
	LP indicated that the location of the grotto needed to change as Dilwyns was too narrow and people had to wait out in the cold. It was agreed that the Assembly Rooms would be a good place to hold it instead.	
6	Food and Flower Festival	
	LA stated that the organisation of the Food and Flower festival was progressing well. A-boards were discussed. LA explained that PACDG had some available but that they would need to get some made.	
	It was agreed that LA could buy materials to make them	
7	AGM	
	It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 9 th April 2018 to ensure there was sufficient time to prepare the accounts. It would be held at LA's house and previous members would be invited.	
8	AOB	
	LA updated that the Food and Flower festival currently had use of 3 gazebos for the event. LA has asked David at Weobley Ash for a list of how many they needed to buy.	
	DTE and EV to discuss the flyers and design for the festival outside of the meeting.	
9	Date and venue of next meeting	
	Connect General Meeting at Radnorshire Arms - 5 th March 2018	
	AGM - 9 th April 2018	