

**Minutes from the Connect General Meeting  
19th June 2018  
The Salty Dog, Presteigne**

**Present:** Chair Leon Abecasis (LA) David Tennant-Eyles (DTE) James Tennant-Eyles (JTE) Eva Venny (EV) Ann Wake (AW) Colin Felgate (CF) Helena Attlee (HA) Sabiha Ruber

**Also in attendance:** Maggie James (PACDG, Treasurer) Anne Butcher (Transition Presteigne) and Leigh Harling-Bowen (Transition Presteigne)

**Minute Taker:** Francesca Sandwell

**Apologies:** None

	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>Minutes from the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018</b></p> <p>LA stated had had forgotten to circulate the minutes from the previous meeting.</p> <p><b>Action: LA to circulate the minutes from the last meeting</b></p>	<p><b>LA</b></p>
2.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Current balance stands at £2,443.83</p> <p>Outgoing:</p> <p>Insurance - £296.94 Gazebos - £3069.10 Broadsheep advertising - £240.00 Artisan print - £168.92 Facebook event advertising - £20.00 Rosettes - £13.20 Elan events for table hire - £40.00 Food and Flower Festival - £201.34</p> <p>Incoming:</p> <p>£1,232.00 from Food and Flower Festival £221.75 from the recycling £125.00 from Subscriptions</p> <p>Food and Flower Festival – DTE is waiting for one more cheque and then will send through a spreadsheet with all incoming and outgoing money.</p> <p>There will be a separate fundraiser to raise money to pay for the gazebos.</p> <p>The following people have paid their subscriptions:-</p>	

	<p>CF, DTE, EV, Steve Housego, Annemarie Roberts, JTE, LA, HA and AW</p> <p>HA raised that the form on the website to sign up as a member was not user friendly. JTE explained that the form was a PDF and needed to be printed off and filled in.</p> <p>DTE has sent several emails to people who have previously been members and those who were members last year to remind them that subscriptions were due.</p> <p><b>Action: DTE to send out another reminder email re subscriptions.</b></p> <p>It was agreed that it was better to go and see people. More people are required to make Connect stronger and it would be good to have a dedicated group of people for events.</p> <p>On the back of Food and Flower Festival Connect needs to recruit more people. Sam from Wine Bar, Mary from the Deli and the Hat Shop have all expressed interest in becoming members. LA will visit them all and take a receipt book.</p> <p>LA will speak to Gaby and ask the Judges Lodgings to become a member again.</p> <p>The idea of a discount for charities was vetoed as it was agreed it would be too complicated to implement.</p>	DTE
3.	<p><b>Dark Skies presentation: Leigh Harling-Bowen (LHB)</b></p> <p>On 19<sup>th</sup> July 18 LHB will be presenting a proposal to Presteigne Town Council for Presteigne to apply as a Dark Sky community. This will be the first one in Wales and would be a unique selling point for the town. If successful, LGB would need to work with Connect and local businesses to implement the scheme. A business plan would be required to ensure that Presteigne was able to capitalise on the opportunities that this might present. It would also require the backing from Powys County Council to ensure that the appropriate street lighting was used.</p> <p>LHB has already received several letters of support including from Lord Martin Rees, the cosmologist. It was agreed that Connect would provide a letter of support.</p> <p><b>Action: EV to ask LHB to send some suggested wording so that Connect can tailor a letter for the Town Council.</b></p>	EV
4.	<p><b>Plastic Free Presteigne – meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June</b></p> <p>This is an initiative as part of Plastic Free Powys with the aim to eliminate plastic waste across the county. LA stated that the mechanics of the project are still yet unknown.</p>	

	<p>On 27<sup>th</sup> June, LA and EV will attend a meeting to represent Connect. The meeting will look at what Presteigne is already doing, how we can encourage others to get involved and what changes we can implement. Transition Presteigne has already done a lot of the groundwork on this subject.</p> <p>LA explained that he was buying paper bags for 5p each but that this cost would not be passed on to the customer as LA will be advertising the Salty Dog on them.</p> <p>LA and EV will report back from the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Christmas Fair</b></p> <p>On the back of the success of the Food and Flower Festival, LA had 2 suggestions:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A has spoken to a lady who says she can get 15 arts and crafts stalls to come to the Christmas fair which would mean there were more stalls on the High Street.</li> </ol> <p>It was queried whether the Christmas Fair should be held on a Friday or Saturday. DTE stated that while the Fair used to be on a Saturday, it had now moved to Friday in order to attract more children and parents to the event, with Father Christmas leading the children in to town after school. Pope has agreed to do this again.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Santa's grotto could be held at St Andrew's Hall. LA has spoken to the vicar who has agreed that it could be hosted there for free and LA would like to create a winter wonderland with lights in the trees. LA has spoken to Rory Bennett about this. LA also stated it would be good to speak to the small breed farm about the use of one of their reindeers.</li> </ol> <p>There was concern raised that while this might be a better venue than Dilwyn's where the access was difficult, leaving the High Street would mean that stalls would not do as well. LA stated that they could hold an arts exhibition at the Church and also have more stalls down Broad Street. If this change was implemented then Connect would need to ensure that it was well planned and connected so that the High Street did not lose out. However, the Grotto was held previously in the Judges Lodgings and this worked well.</p> <p>Having stalls on the cobble outside AW's house was discussed. JTE stated that he could look into this with the insurers.</p> <p>Everyone present agreed that they would like to make the Christmas Fair in to a bigger event. This will be discussed at the next meeting. It was agreed that a Christmas Fair subcommittee would also be required and that this would be good to attract more people to join Connect.</p>	

<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Mrs Wood's Birthday present</b></p> <p>JTE presented a bowl and stand which had been carved by David Preece and explained that the cost of the present would be £210. A plaque will be added to the bowl. The following wording was agreed:-</p> <p>“From Presteigne Connect in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mrs Sue Wood and in recognition of hers and her husband Commander Wood's many year of very much valued patronage and support of the Presteigne Chamber of Trade “</p> <p>JTE has spoken to Mrs Woods' son and he has suggested that Connect could present the bowl to Mrs Wood during her birthday celebrations at the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>It was agreed that CF would do the inscription which would be attached to the bowl.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Presteigne Carnival</b></p> <p>JTE has tentatively booked 2 marquees for Connect and the Youth Club. Skittles and a coconut shy will be run between the 2 groups. People will be required to help on the day and JTE and DTE will set up. LA will be there on the day. It was hoped that Connect would have a better position than last year, although the position has not yet been confirmed.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>PAC Funding</b></p> <p>It was agreed at the previous meeting that £500 would be given to PAC as a one off donation for PAC to distribute to local groups and causes. This would ensure that the money from the recycling was helping to support a wider group of people in the community. PAC will then inform Connect how the money has been spent.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Fundraising Event – 21<sup>st</sup> October</b></p> <p>LA informed the meeting that the Memorial Hall had been booked for 21<sup>st</sup> October by the Twinning Committee who had approached LA about doing a joint fundraising event.</p> <p>LA stated there were two options:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Halloween event</li> <li>2) Flamenco night</li> </ol> <p>It was agreed that following the success of the previous Flamenco evening that it would be good to run this again as it had raised £1,115.</p> <p>However, this amount would need to be split between Connect and the Twinning Committee and Connect needed to raise £1,300 to</p>	

	<p>cover the cost of the gazebos.</p> <p>It was queried what the Twinning Committee would do to support this event. LA stated that he hoped that they would provide volunteers on the night. LA will need to speak to Brian from the Twinning Committee and maybe look at doing another event with them. It was suggested that PAC could also join this meeting to discuss ideas and that maybe Connect could make a donation to the Twinning Committee instead.</p> <p>LA will report back at the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>What is Connect's purpose – new member expectations</b></p> <p>DTE highlighted that the mission statement (which can be found on the website) clearly defines Connect's purpose.</p> <p>Following the success of the Christmas Fair and the Food and Flower Festival, as well as the purchasing of the gazebos, it was felt that Connect had lots of examples of the good work that it was doing for the community which should help attract more members.</p> <p>As new members, HR and SR were asked what their expectations of Connect were. SR stated that as a freelancer, she had never had a Christmas party. It was agreed that one of Connect's aims could be to connect linked minded people, especially those new to the area.</p>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Network event – members drive</b></p> <p>A monthly meeting over coffee or a breakfast meeting was suggested to connect local people.</p> <p>It was highlighted that there were a lot of people locally who had a variety of skills that could be shared. Talks and workshops were suggested as networking events and that Connect could sponsor events where people came to give a talk about a specialist subject. These would take place 3 times a year and be an evening event open to non-members.</p> <p>The 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 6pm was provisionally agreed upon. LA will ask the Workhouse if the event could be held there. 'Social media – how to promote your business' was agreed as the first subject. It was suggested that Sally Butler would be a good person to lead this talk.</p> <p>LA raised that following the successful promotion of the Food and Flower Festival online, Sally Butler had been offered two complimentary tickets to the Citrus Dinner. Unfortunately, she had been unable to attend and LA asked Connect if they would be happy to cover the cost of a meal (to the value of £70) at the new Wild Thyme restaurant for Sally Butler and one other person. LA confirmed that he would pay for his own meal.</p> <p>It was agreed that this was a good idea.</p>	

<p><b>12.</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>The Radnorshire Arms: It is not known exactly what is going on with the RA but the police are looking into the matter.</p> <p>Letter received from Presteigne Firefighters: EV highlighted that the Firefighter will be undertaking a challenge to raise money for the Firefighters charity. It was agreed that as they were celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the charity that Connect would give a donation of £75.00.</p> <p>Agendas and minutes for future meetings: LA raised that printing the agendas and minutes was costing him quite a lot of money. It was agreed that everyone should have read the minutes before the meeting and therefore LA did not need to print them for the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b>Date and venue of next meeting:</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 above the Salty Dog.</p>	