

Ponteland Community Partnership

Monthly Meeting

Date: 20th January 2016

Venue: Ponteland Town Council Office, Meadowfield, at 7.p.m.

1. Attending:

Alma Dunigan, Shirley Hill, Robin Ramsay, Rob Anderson, Brian Prickett, George Clasper, Nirmal Sehgal, Christine Greenwell, Sheila Campbell, PC Lee Davison, Pratima Mehra and Yuvraj Chauhan

2. Apologies:

Frank Harrington, Carl Rawlings, Mike Brown and Syd Cowan.

3. Welcome:

Chairman Alma Dunigan welcomed everyone present.

4. Minutes: Passed and signed.

5. Minutes Arising: Page 2: Youth article for PN&V will now be in February edition.

6. Chairman's Report: Alma sent a letter to NCC Joanne Garrick (cc Stephen Mason) regarding re-sighting of Youth Centre and Henry's Hut, if moved from their current position, but is still awaiting a response after two months. AD also contacted Steve Cox of the Rotary Club regarding funding which might be forthcoming.

AD presented a list of potential ideas on forthcoming projects for the future; a discussion on the possible selection based on deliverability will be made at the next meeting.

7. PCP Financial Report from CG:

Bank Balance for PCP: £678.40.

PN&V Bank Balance: £5.210.22.

8. Sub Groups:

a. Editorial – No Meeting. Changed Bank Account incurs fees.

b. Neighbourhood Plan Group:

AD reported that a 'Housing Needs Survey' had been designed by PNPG and would be delivered with the next edition of PN&V as a supplement, for each residential household to complete and submit.

An online version is also available via the PNP website.

- c. **Constitution Review:** The appointed sub-committee, Brian Prickett, Frank Harrington and Syd Cowan, had reviewed the current PCP Constitution and recommended amendments that are primarily intended to bring the Constitution up to date and also clarify the anomalies that have arisen since it was first issued. These clarifications will be placed before the next A.G.M for ratification, after scrutiny by the whole Committee has taken place.

- d. **Youth Activities:** Youth Ambassador, Yuvraj Chauhan, had spoken to Waitrose Manager for permission to hand out a 'Youth Opinion Questionnaire' on the same day as the local Councillors surgery in Waitrose on 1st Saturday in February. After having sight of the questions the Committee were pleased to agree to this.

9. Written Reports:

- **U3A:** No report.
- **Newcastle International Airport:** SC confirmed – no meeting until March 2016.
- **Ponteland Community Trust:** Nothing.
- **Civic Society:** In his absence MB reported that the Committee was most concerned that the NCC were not carrying out planning enforcement regarding 9 Bell Villas (YOLO) and are allowing the front open-air extension (up to the pavement) to remain unchanged following the submission of a retrospective planning application without further consultation.
CS extremely concerned with projected removal of the Library to an unsatisfactory location at the Sports Centre without consultation. NCC Nigel Walsh told complainants the decision had already been taken and was irreversible.
Muriel Sobo to arrange meeting with Nigel Walsh with an ensured representative of the Ponteland Development Trust in order to advance the case for their projected Community Hub on the existing Library site.

- **Ageing Well:** BP reported that at the meeting on 11th January 2016 arrangements for attending the Ageing Well in Northumberland Conference, to be held in Ashington on Thursday February 18th were discussed. It was hoped that this event would produce an alternative selection of stallholders for the forthcoming 'Step into Spring' event planned for Saturday 14th May in St Mary's church hall, 10.00 until noon. It was agreed that proposals for an advertising banner would be produced for the next group meeting in early February.
- **Friends of the Park:** Written report from Coral Wilmot taken from November FOPP Newsletter.

Article on the 95 years history of the Ponteland W.I. A generous donation from them to buy and plant crocuses on the bankside opposite Waitrose completed with the help of 2 W.I. members and 2 Waitrose staff members.

Their Treasurer reported that membership stood at 240 with two new committee members. Website was now up and running.

700 daffodils planted to create natural drifts within shrubberies opposite Waitrose.

20th August: Installation of a chainsaw sculpture in oak by the award winning chainsaw sculptor Tommy Craggs, commissioned by June Atkinson in memory of her husband Leonard.

The mowing of the Wildflower Meadow produced a find of 2 rare grassland fungi; a Meadow Waxcap and a Beige Coral.

The Young People's Wood suffered damage to a young crab apple tree. Concern expressed over growing vandalism in the Park.

The FOPP's won a 'Thriving Award' at the it's Your Neighbourhood Award Ceremony.

Reiteration of FOPP's aim to maintain and augment wildlife habitats within the Park in order to sustain the wonderful variety of wildlife for the continued pleasure of all who use Ponteland Park.
- **Community Transport:** No report from DG.

- RR said efforts to replace the late Friday/Saturday night 74 route service had been successful and there would be a last bus from Newcastle at 11.20.p.m.
- **Environmental and Wellbeing Matters:** George Clasper brought up the countrywide question of the 'loneliness' of so many people in our communities and how we might address this. It evoked considerable discussion and will be again addressed at the next meeting.

10. A.O.B.

- A. Celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday under discussion.
- B. Twizel Place site to be investigated in conjunction with the PTC.
- C. The NCC Architect had no plans in place for youth facilities after the removal of the Youth Centre or Henry's Hut.

11. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th February 2016.