

Ponteland Community Partnership

Monthly Meeting

Date: 23rd March 2016

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

Attending: Alma Dunigan, Shirley Hill, Robin Ramsay, Brian Prickett, George Clasper, Sheila Campbell, Rob Anderson, Syd Cowan, Pratima Mehra, Yuvraj Chauhan, and Heather Thomas.

1. **Apologies:** Mike Brown, Syd Cowan and Nirmal Sehgal.

Welcome:

Chairman Alma Dunigan welcomed everyone present.

2. **Minutes:** Passed.

3. **Matters Arising:** None.

4. **Chairman's Report:** Alma reported on the recent Editorial Meeting where a complaint had been received from an aggrieved prospective advertiser whose advert was refused because of an informal agreement made with a similar advertiser. It was agreed that PN&V had to be careful not to put the PTC in a litigious position and any informal agreements would cease.

5. **PCP Financial Report from CG:**

Bank Balance for PCP: £633.02

PN&V Bank Balance: £7.483.47

6. **Sub Groups:**

a. **Editorial** – as Chairman's Report above.

b. **Neighbourhood Plan Group:**

AD Informed committee that residents would receive the 'Revised Vision, Objectives and Policy Options Consultation' document included in and delivered with the April issue of PN&V.

The figures recorded for the 'Housing Needs Survey' had been excellent.

c. **Constitution Review:** SH asked if the serving timescale for the Executive Officers could be reduced from 3 to 1 year in office. This would be put before the A.G.M for consideration

- d. **Youth Activities:** Youth Ambassador, Yuvraj Chauhan, was designing a poster and composing a letter to the High School, Coates Endowed and Dr. Prior at the Middle School but would email them to SH for circulation to all members for comments before sending.
Yuvraj and Pratima were thanked for their efforts.

7. Written Reports:

- **U3A:** No report.
- **Newcastle International Airport:** SC reported that the NIA was celebrating 80 years. Producing brochure 'Discover the world from your airport.' Increased destinations and United Airlines links to USA and onwards. Increased parking adjacent to Britannia Hotel. Voted "The most welcoming airport."
Excellent disabled facilities. Guide dogs allowed with 'Pet travel scheme. Revamped departure lounge opened. NIA will welcome the noise findings of the Civil Parish of Ponteland housing survey. New improved outlets including M&S 'Food to go.'
The under 16's do not pay Airport Duty.
For future discussion: Border Control and Drones.
- **Ponteland Community Trust:** Brian Prickett reported the Trust is continuing its evaluation of proposals for replacing the current Ponteland library with a community hub. As part of this process a meeting with the management of the Spetchells Centre in Prudhoe is to be held to assess its performance and viability.
- **Civic Society:** Nothing.
- **Ageing Well:** BP reported arrangements were being finalised for the 'Step into Spring' event on Saturday 14th May in St Mary's Church Hall, 10 a.m. until noon.
SC commented the previous event resulted in her having 'Remap' to adjust some of her furniture.
- **Friends of the Park:** AD and SH thanked Heather Thomas for her efforts with the FOPP's report but it was still far too long for the PCP Minutes and SH had précised it to an acceptable length as follows:

Young People's Wood and Extension:

Extension well established after preparation, strimming, raking and checking trees. Increased wildlife noticed such as frogs and field voles.

Wildflower Meadow:

Cut in September at a pace slow enough for wildlife to move away. Later scarified and sown with Northumberland wild flower seeds.

Bulb Planting:

Ponteland WI donated spring bulbs to commemorate their 70th anniversary. Over two thousand crocuses were planted on the Waitrose embankment by WI and FOPP members.

At a later date 700 dwarf daffodils were planted in the Waitrose shrubberies and also daffodils bred by the late Gordon Harrison were planted.

Wildlife:

The dipper returned to the Pont in late autumn and a cormorant was sighted. Two Otters were seen before Christmas near to Fox Covert Lane.

Trees:

Five trees planted by FOPP are thriving and discussions are ongoing with the PTC about planting an oak tree to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday. The feasibility of purchasing elm trees from a specialist tree nursery in Shropshire, who have trees free from Dutch elm disease, is under consideration.

Park Seats:

Condition of the commemorative seats is causing concern. A seat renovated by David Johnston, a French polisher at the Milkhope Centre, was well executed and a submission has been made to the PTC for permission to renovate three more seats.

An application is planned to the Big Lottery Fund in conjunction with the PTC to create a seat at the Oxbow Lake.

Bluebell Wood:

Two ecologists from Northumberland County Council have given encouraging advice regarding creating an area of native bluebells

in the Fox Covert area and to include this in FOPP's plan for 2016-2017.

- **Community Transport:** No report from DG but Mike Brown drew the members attention to the North East Combined Authority plans to launch a 20 year 'Transport Manifesto'. Consultation closes on 8th April. Website address is at <http://www.northeastca.gov.uk/news/have-say-future-transport-north-east>.
- **Environmental:** Members were urged to report pot holes on the NCC 'pot hole' line.

8. A.O.B:

Pratima offered to attempt to arrange a Street Party for the Queen's birthday celebrations.

AD agreed with comments relating to the website and it needing updating, including meeting dates.

AD felt it unnecessary to choose another project currently as so much going on in Ponteland at the moment.

SC had agreed to be the Church representative for the PCP.

9. Date of next PCP Meeting Wednesday 20th April in PTC Meeting Room.