

Ponteland Community Partnership

Monthly Meeting

Date: 15th February 2017

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

Attending: Alma Dunigan, Shirley Hill, Frank Harrington, George Clasper, Pratima Mehra & Yuvi, Heather Thomas, Mike Brown and Syd Cowan.

1. **Apologies:** Carl Rawlings, Robin Ramsay, Rob Anderson and Nirmal Sehgal.
2. **Minutes:** Page 3 Equal Opportunities Policy approved.
3. **Matters Arising:** None.
4. **Community Issues:**

Alma commented on the plethora of planning issues that were now in the public domain including another one from 'Helens' for 187 houses that was expected to send in a planning application in March . PN&V were playing a pivotal role in keeping the residents up to date with related information.

Guy Opperman MP had delivered a "call in letter" to the Secretary of State from combined local organisations (Greenbelt Group, Civic Society, Community Partnership and the Town Council).

5. PCP Financial Report:

Heather Thomas reported that at the 17th January there was £428.95 in the PCP account. A cheque was received for £543 from Ponteland Town Council following the successful grant application. The PCP account now stood at £971.95.

HT had submitted a grant application to the Community Chest that resulted in our being awarded £2.200 as long as proof of its use was

returned with the acceptance forms. Members gratefully accepted the award.

AD and all members offered their thanks to HT for her hard work.

6. Sub Groups:

- a. Editorial:** AD reported that there had been an Editorial Meeting on 9th February. 6 People had been in attendance.

Items agreed:

All agreed the need to keep original principles impartial and non-political with an independent Editor.

PN&V valued by residents as it fills a gap left by change in newspaper coverage.

To review rates on advertising to £420 a page giving a 5% increase and to tighten up the discount starting from April 2017 edition.

Now has a circulation of 4,800 plus businesses.

Considering future emailing of PN&V instead of costly postage.

Intending to review the card discount and remove the 3%.

Ideally each issue should be 24 or 32 pages for printing costs but difficult to maintain these optimum page numbers.

'What's On' page: some entries need to be restricted to available space.

Agreed expenditure of £389 for Auditor costs.

- b. Neighbourhood Plan Group:**

AD gave a report on the current position of the Neighbourhood Plan:

All the relevant documents are being put together for submission to NCC after the analysis of the responses have been considered.

The neighbourhood plan was presented to the Town Council which was agreed subject to a couple of small amendments.

The website needs to include all the additional evidence to support the plan and a link set up to the NCC website.

Once the plan is submitted NCC are responsible for a 6 week consultation and examination by an Independent Examiner. If approved a referendum would follow.

c. Youth Activities:

AD reported that the connections made at the Middle and High Schools for links to school council and parliament had not proved fruitful; this is believed to be due to the current schools position and changes from 3 tier to 2 tier.

Yuvi, our Youth Ambassador, still stood with 3 members. Unfortunately, Bella and Franie's coffee shop where they met together on Sundays was now closed on that day but they were messaging together as well as devising website material.

d. Projects:

The Bridleway Project on Saturday 25th February starting at 10a.m from the car park adjacent to the Fire Station is now fully organised with 18 volunteers from many organisations: the PTC, PCP, PNPSG, Civic Society, Footpath Users Group, Greenbelt Group, FOPP's, 5 Scouts and the NCC Area Countryside Officer.

The NCC Area Countryside Officer would be making a donation of trees to the PCP for planting alongside Rotary way in 'sparse' foliage areas.

AD is arranging for the Pont News & Views to take photos.

The second phase will involve NCC with working on some parts of the path surface TBA.

The PCP is looking forward to a second project taking the bridleway from Rotary Way to the Airport hopefully with an input from the Airport as well.

The NCC Area Countryside Officer would be making a donation of trees to the PCP for planting alongside Rotary way in 'sparse' foliage areas.

7. Reports from other organisations:

Efforts would be made to recruit interested organisations.

8. A.O.B:

SH suggested that 'Banks' should be approached for future funding.

GC thanked Alma for her continued hard work and all agreed.

Date of next PCP Meeting: Wednesday 22nd March 2017 in PTC Meeting Room.