

Ponteland Community Partnership

Meeting on 19 September 2018 at 1900, Ponteland Town Council Office, Meadowfield.

Present: Alma Dunigan, Frank Harrington, Alan Varley, Robin Ramsay, Heather Thomas, Pratima Mehra and Yuvi, Chris Winks, Andrew Tucker.

- 1) **Apologies:** Shirley Hill, Mike Brown, George Clasper, Nirmal Sehgal, Christine Greenwell, Chris Brummitt, William Moses, PC Darren English, PC Ingrid Clayton
- 2) **Declaration of interest.** None
- 3) **Minutes from the meeting held on** 15 August 2018 approved
- 4) **Matters arising**

Alma Dunigan, Frank Harrington, Yuvi and Heather Forshaw had attended the Lord Lieutenant's Garden Party at Alnwick Garden on 13 September 2018. This was organised to recognise the work of volunteers and carers. Prince Charles attended the event. There was a photograph and article in the September edition of Pont News and Views.

PCP members would be asked to sign a register stating that they had viewed PCP policies and procedures on line and that they agreed to comply with the contents of the documents. The documents can be viewed online at the PCP website.

5) **Community Matters**

Old Railway Line Project- The project was complete subject to the installation of one perch bench near Airport. The final evaluation report for the Community Foundation for Tyne and Wear and Northumberland was in the process of completion.

6) **Safeguarding Statutory Guidance**

Pratima Mehra would circulate the telephone numbers of Northumberland County Safeguarding Team to the safeguarding team.

7) **Treasurer's Report**

Heather Thomas reported that at 5 September 2018 there is £2.042.70 in the account of Ponteland Community Partnership. This includes the remaining balance for the Old Railway Line Project of £45.70 for publicity. A payment has been made to Todd and Cue for insurance of £151.20. This remains at the same level as the previous year. This transaction will appear in the balance to be reported in October. During the period £50 was received from Northumberland County Council for the Love Northumberland Awards.

All

AD/HT

PM

Ponteland Community Partnership

8) Sub Groups

Management: A management meeting had been held on 22 September 2018 at 6 pm. The contents were incorporated in the minutes of meeting.

Projects:

Way Markers – Spring 2019 – This would be linked to the Ageing Well Spring event. Councillor Veronica Jones and Northumberland County Council’s newly appointed Reality Officer would attend. The Reality Officer will map walks and activities in Northumberland. An application was being made to Newcastle Building Society’s Community Fund for Way Markers in liaison with the Darras Hall branch of the Building Society. Alma Dunigan and Frank Harrington had met with Newcastle Building Society managers.

AD/FH

Grasslands SSS1 pedestal project- Spring 2019 – English Nature have agreed the position of a pedestal – inside the gate from Middle Drive. Meeting to follow.

AD/FH

Schools Complex – Community Planting at Callerton Lane at the last stage of Building Project – 2019/20 – Alma Dunigan had discussed a possible planting with Councillor Richard Dodds who had agreed that it was a good idea.

AD

Bulb Planting- Bulb planting events will take place on 29 September (Air Cadets), 6 October (Scouts, Air Cadets and Army Cadets) and 13 October (Community). The Air Cadets event would commence at 9.30 am and the remaining events at 10 am. Staff from Newcastle Building Society would attend the event on 13 October 2018.

AD/HT

Youth – National Citizenship Service – Team Jiggy – Alma Dunigan and Heather Forshaw had provided support to the team. Team Jiggy had worked very hard removing Himalayan Balsam beside the River. They had also measured steps for the Way Markers and organised a fun day. This had raised £446.66 which had been donated to the Tiny Lives Charity for premature babies. Alma Dunigan and Alan Varley, Mayor attended their presentation event and presented certificates on behalf of Ponteland Community Foundation to the team.

AD/AV

Meeting with Youth Service – Alma Dunigan and Frank Harrington met with the Chris Anthony who is NCC Senior Youth Worker to discuss activities in Ponteland. The meeting had been very productive. There had been discussion on a possible enterprise project – Dragon’s Den.

AD/FH

Work with Youth Participation Officer- The Youth Participation Officer had identified a year 13 student to work with Ponteland Community Partnership.

AD

SME Centre of Excellence- Alma Dunigan had met with Ammar Mirza.

Youth Forum: Yuvi suggested that the youth forum should be put on temporary hold.

Ponteland Community Partnership

9) Reports from Other Organisations

Friends of Ponteland Park- Heather Thomas said that key projects for 2018-19 were improvement to the shrubbery near Waitrose, replacement of crocuses on the Waitrose Bank and a two year project a daffodil walk.

10) Any Other Business

Issues affecting Ponteland - Mike Brown had emailed the Civic Society concerns on the main issues affected Ponteland at the moment. He had indicated that they was a shortage of public parking spaces with the new bays on Meadowfield needing to be offset by the unofficial spaces lost, the likely overspill from the new flats into the public parking on Thornhill road and no clarity on access to public parking on the rebuilt Schools/Leisure site. A further issue was NCC proposals to apply 'no waiting at any time' restriction to both sides of Middle Drive from the new Darras Hall School to beyond the junction with Crossfell with parent parking likely at Linden Way (access only), Whinfell and Crossfell. The discussion concluded that these comments should be forwarded by the Civic Society to Northumberland County Council.

Grant Application to Ponteland Town Council – A grant application had been made to Ponteland Town Council for funding for the hire of meeting space between October and March 2019 following the decision of Ponteland Town Council to give the PCP 3 months notice. The Clerk had notified the PCP that the application had been rejected as Ponteland Town Council were concerned that funding room hire would leave this open to other groups seeking similar grant funding.

Heather Thomas expressed her concern at the outcome and suggested in the longer term this might impact on the future of the Ponteland Community Partnership. This was because the group was not funded by subscription and organisational running costs were precluded from grant applications for projects.

Frank Harrington also expressed his deep concern in relation to the unique position of the PCP being an Unincorporated Association established under statute and their close working relationship with Councils. The PCP was a group made up of a wide range of supporting community organisations within Ponteland working to identify projects of importance to the community and bidding for community funding. The group had raised significant sums of money (approx £13,000 in 2 years) for project ideas generated from the Neighbourhood Plan for the benefit of Ponteland. These all had contributed towards Britain in Bloom & Ponteland in Bloom.

The PCP greatly appreciated the support that they had received from Ponteland Town Council. The group felt that the latest decision had the potential to impact on their good relationship.

11) Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 17 October 2018 at the Memorial Hall at 7 pm. Members were advised to use the rear entrance.

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