

**Minutes of the MVCA meeting 24th February, 2016**

**Dates for your diaries:**

**Annual General Meeting:** Wednesday, 30th March – time & venue to be confirmed

**Next MVCA Meeting:** Wednesday, 27th April at Leo’s at 7.00 pm

**Monton Community Festival**: Saturday, 2nd July at Duke’s Drive 11.00 am – 5.00 pm

**Festival meetings**: 3rd Tuesday of every month - 15th March at 6.30 pm – venue to be confirmed

**Attendees:** Sara Hughes / Julie Gosney (Treasurer) / Maxine Coyle / Liz Harris (Chair) / Ross Stevenson / Rick McGarry / Oliver Pirk / Pam Ward / Chris Bentley / Florence McCarthy / Cllr Peter Wheeler / Paula Gibson (Celebrations and Cake Creations) / Emma Gill (Secretary)/ Jan Phelan / Mark Rooney / Ann Waddell / Harry Blackburn (Bargain Booze) / J and N Hughes / Rev Anna Jarvis (Unitarian Church) / Jan Phelan / Kieran Phelan / Nicola Smith

**Apologies:** Bee Morrison / Pam Pickard (Art and Craft House) / Julie Ogden (Sandford & Ogden) / John McDonald / Hazel Marshal / Judith Gibson

Liz Harris took the Chair for the meeting and Emma Gill took the minutes.

All existing members had received a copy of the Minutes of the previous meeting, either by email or via the MVCA website. There were no matters arising from the Minutes. Acceptance of the January minutes was proposed by Jan Phelan, seconded by Maxine Coyle. Those members present (16) agreed unanimously that they were a true record of the meeting.

**AGM**

* We formally announce, for the second time, that MVCA’s Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 30th March. Venue and timings to be announced.
* Everyone is very welcome to join us for a review of the past year and to see our new, exciting plans for 2016.
* There are some vacant posts, so if you are interested in getting more involved, please consider one of these positions – Treasurer / Marketing Committee Head / Membership Committee Head / Retail Liaison
* Nominations are still open for any of the main Officer roles (Chair / Deputy Chair / Secretary / Treasurer) – these should be sent to the Secretary at mvcasecretary@hotmail.com by March 15th at the latest, as this is the official deadline, according to the MVCA constitution.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**SUMMER EVENT 2016 – Monton Community Festival is alive and kicking!**

We are delighted to confirm that the remodelled event will take place on Saturday, 2nd July on Dukes Drive in 2016 (with a possible 2nd day on Sunday for a music festival – to be confirmed). The fair will still be on the green, but there will not be an MVCA-organised event on the high street. All events organised by MVCA will be at the new venue.

Planning meetings will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month - the next one will be on 15th March at 6.30 – venue will be confirmed. A Festival Committee has been formed for the major areas of organisation. Volunteers are at the heart of making this event a success so please contact Liz Harris to discuss how you might get involved - liz@montonmarketing.co.uk or 07754 477346.

**MARKETING**

* The role of Marketing Coordinator is open, so if you have skills in this area, would like to know more about the position, please contact Liz Harris liz@montonmarketing.co.uk or 07754 477346
* The team is going some great work on the website and social media, and statistics about these will be presented to the membership at the AGM.
* Will Barden has joined the team of volunteers – welcome on board and thank you!
* Sara Hughes will contact the Twitter pages of Monton Road and Monton Shops to see if we can join forces or work together.
* I ♥ Monton discount scheme – Jan Phelan and Maxine Coyle are working with local shops to increase participation and make the discounts more visible on the website and in the shops themselves.
* Perhaps we can add something into On Our Doorstep in the next edition? Jan/ Maxine to let Liz know.

**MEMBERSHIP**

* A new head of Membership needs to be found – anyone interested should contact Liz Harris at liz@montonmarketing.co.uk or 07754 477346
* The idea is to look at retention of existing members / recruitment of new members /campaigns to increase awareness.
* We currently have 216 individuals and 145 households as members.
* Last month, it was proposed that the residents’ cost of membership be raised from £6 to £10 i.e. 40% increase. This met with some resistance because further information about the benefits and rationale behind the increase need to be justified.
* Maxine re-submitted a proposal at February’s meeting – improved card design and type / introduction of a membership brochure about MVCA updates and campaigns / Members Only social nights.
* Maxine proposed that the membership pass the increased membership fee, this was seconded by Ross Stevenson. The membership passed the proposal unanimously (16 votes). This will be implemented in April 2016.
* New initiatives needed to encourage businesses to promote I Love Monton - Maxine Coyle / Jan Phelan
* New page on the website <http://www.montonvillage.org.uk/> for Paypal renewals
* Help is needed to reform the membership protocol
* There was a discussion about a request from the estate agent, Barlow White to have their logo on the new brochure. This is not expected by or provided to any other estate agent and the membership on the evening voted against this proposal unanimously (16 votes). Maxine to relay this information to Barlow White.

**GARDENING**

* Head of Gardening, Florence McCarthy has written to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) to tell them about Monton Village gardening, as the RHS is looking at local groups and how they can potentially partner with them, during the project RHS Garden Bridgewater (due to open in 2019). She is waiting to hear back from them.

**ENVIRONMENT**

* Tree bases are on hold due to the winter months
* A first draft of an improvement plan for Monton has been sent by Maxine to Urban Vision, asking them to do a walkabout in the village to outline all the areas of concern (loose paving stones / damaged tree bases etc)
* It was asked in the meeting whether landlords of private businesses can be forced to address the issue of uneven pavements outside their properties. Maxine to investigate.
* Perhaps if residents want to complain, we should take to social media?
* There is renewed talk of a development in the old paint shop at the back of Buchanan’s Vets for shops and flats. Cllr Peter Wheeler advised that access and parking could be potential issues.
* It was noted that the recycling area at the top of the car park is looking much better – this will continue to be monitored. Again the membership asked if a CCTV could be installed. Cllr Wheeler was sympathetic but cited funding and monitoring as difficulties which would prevent the council pursuing this.
* Rick McGarry to remove the PA system on the high street.
* Car park campaign – Liz and Maxine are working on a new campaign.
* Concerns were raised about Fletcher Engineering moving from Lansdowne Road, and the potential traffic whilst the new apartments are being built.

**RETAIL LIAISON**

* Michelle Morrison is standing down as Retail Liaison. Anyone interested in working as a close liaison between MVCA and the local traders should get in touch with Liz Harris at liz@montonmarketing.co.uk or 07754 477346
* Local business should be aware that grants of £1000 are available by Bridgewater Canal Project. Any business within a ½ mile of the canal can apply for a grant, as long as they can show commitment to promote awareness of the canal and its history. Please contact Jan Phelan for further details in the interim.

**SCHOOLS LIAISON**

* MVCA is happy to promote the fund raising events of any local school but must remain impartial and unbiased, as there are several schools in the area.
* Ruth Holroyd to provide Maxine Coyle with a promotional poster / article for the MVCA website and promotional events calendar.
* Any local schools who would like to get involved with MVCA are very welcome to attend the MVCA monthly meetings.
* Monton Village Primary School is having a car boot sales on March 12th – Chris Bentley to provide Maxine Coyle with the details for the website.

**CHURCH LIAISON**

Below are links to the three main churches in Monton – no further update was available

* Methodist Church <http://www.montonmethodistchurch.org.uk/index.html>
* Unitarian Church <http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/monton/activities.htm>
* St Paul’s <http://www.stpaulsmonton.org>
* The Unitarian Church will be holding a special service on the Sunday of the Community Festival
* Same sex marriages can now be held at the Unitarian Church as they now have a licence. For further information please contact the minister Anna Jarvis on 07769 038 773.

**VOLUNTEERING**

* Ross Stevenson, who is head of volunteering is waiting to hear back from Salford CVS about volunteer expense funding (for example uniforms for the day of the festival).
* He is also working on revamping the Volunteering Policy.
* If you are interested in getting more involved with MVCA, please contact us by sending an email to info@montonvillage.org.uk

**STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR MVCA**

* The first discussions were held on February 24th prior to the monthly meeting and Ross Stevenson facilitated a brain storming session with local residents and businesses. In total 10 people attended and more sessions will happen in coming months.
* The main focus was to look at what people want out of Monton and MVCA in the next 3 years, looking at what do we do / what could we do / what should we do as a volunteer membership organisation.
* There will be questionnaires to see what more of the local residents and businesses feel is important to them and an event in April to look at the themes in greater detail.
* MVCA needs to prioritise what its key campaigns will be over the next 3 years.

**VETERANS SHELTER**

* We were not awarded funding for the Veterans’ Shelter by Groundworks unfortunately. It was felt that there was a lack of community feel to the application, which is useful feedback and will help us with future funding applications.
* Florence McCarthy and Jan Phelan to continue to look for alternative funding channels.

**PAINTING THE TOWN** (shop shutter art)

* Jan Phelan is awaiting news from the Arts Council which is due to submit an application for a grant.
* We are still looking for alternative funding – potentially local businesses can access grants to do their own shutters via the Bridgewater Canal – further details can be found [here](https://www.salford.gov.uk/bccbusinessgrant.htm)
* Ross Stevenson mentioned that he has some details of community arts funding – to be passed to Jan Phelan.

**REVIEW OF MVCA CONSTITUTION**

* Rick McGarry and Liz Harris are working on this currently – work in progress

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

* A new committee has been set up for this project – Emma Gill / Cath Broadhead / John Maybury
* Preliminary meeting was held on February 20th to discuss future proofing the lights and budgets for 2016.
* The electrician, John Maybury to provide a quotation.
* Budget requirements and a proposal to be submitted to the membership by April 2016

**CHRISTMAS EVENT**

* The Chair suggested that we should start to think about the Christmas event sooner, rather than later this year.
* Pam Pickard / Ross Stevenson / Paula Gibson all volunteered to coordinate this.

**SOCIAL EVENTS**

* MVCA would like to organise events and activities throughout the year for local residents to come together.
* If anyone has any ideas, please contact Liz Harris, Chair of MVCA at liz@montonmarketing.co.uk or 07754 477346
* If you would like to coordinate these events, please also let Liz know of your interest!

**AOB**

* Signpost to the new playground from the village is now up (action from a previous meeting)
* Jackie Smith has put her name forward as the new Deputy Chair, to assist Liz Harris (see AGM section).
* Floral displays for the village this summer – work in progress – Emma Gill
* Concerns over the new housing development on the former Mitchell Shackleton site – will this site and Lansdowne Road be connected by a pathway only? Cllr Peter Wheeler confirmed that there will be no road, just a pathway (action from a previous meeting).
* Emma Gill consulted with the membership about Leo’s restaurant request for payment for the non-alcoholic drinks that are drunk on the night of the meetings (coffee and tea). Previously MVCA had negotiated to use the downstairs function room and for teas and coffees to be provided, paying an annual donation to a charity of Mr Bellini’s choice. The owner would prefer to donate the money raised from the drinks on a more regular basis to several different charities throughout the year.
* The membership proposed a couple of options, which will be discussed between Emma Gill and Alison Cheape / Mr Bellini
* Nicola Smith visited the meeting to let us know about “Philosophy in Pubs” – details can be found [here](http://www.montonvillage.org.uk/#!Looking-for-something-New-Philosopy-in-Pubs/c2s5/56d4d20e0cf249e9dfcca7bd) This is a fun but serious evening where a number of philosophical topics are discussed over a drink in the Blind Pig. Sounds like it could be a lot of fun! 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 7.30 pm onwards. Age 18 and over.
* The noticeboard needs some work doing to make it waterproof and sun proof – action Maxine Coyle.
* Rev Anna Jarvis asked for help to persuade the council to repair all the potholes in the road between the lower green and the Unitarian Church. Maxine will support her on this.

**NEXT MEETING – the AGM will take place on Wednesday, March 30th – venue and time to be published separately.**