

**Minutes of the MVCA meeting: 30th November, 2016**

**Dates for your diaries:**

**Monton Magical Christmas & Christmas light switch on** – Saturday, December 3rd from 3.00 pm

**Monton Community Festival meeting** – Tuesday, 6th December at 6.00 pm in the Blue Bell

**Final garden tidy up on the green** – Sunday, 11th December at 10.00 am

**Blue Christmas Service** - Wednesday, 14th December at 7.30 at the Unitarian Church (see Church Liaison section)

**MVCA meeting dates for 2017** – see separate attachment

**Attendees:** Maxine Coyle / Ross Stevenson / Emma Gill (Secretary) / Liz Harris (Chair) / Pam Ward / Peter Wheeler / Leah Austin / Derek Hodgkinson / Siobhan Youd / Florence McCarthy / Rachel White / Keith Hallam / Judith Gibson / Margaret Roberts / Anna Jarvis / Debbie Mosley / Paula Gibson

**Apologies:** Jan Phelan / Kieran Phelan / Will Evans / Ann Rooney / Mark Rooney / Stef Lorenz

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

Existing members had already received a copy of the minutes of the September and October meetings. No comments received about the minutes. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we had to re-locate to the Memorial Church Hall at the Unitarian Church – many thanks to Rev. Jarvis for coming to our rescue at the 11th hour! It is much appreciated.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Finance Update – Kate Herbert, Treasurer (in absentia, reported by Liz Harris)**

Our finances are in good shape, despite some recent expenditure on the Christmas lights for the green and for the Monton Magical Christmas. A fuller report will be available in January.

**Christmas Event – Monton Magical Christmas – Ross Stevenson**

The annual Christmas Event will take place on Saturday, 3rd December from 3.00. All the magic of Christmas will be here, so come and join Father Christmas, the reindeer, local residents and much, much more!

We will be joined by Santa who will have his very own grotto within the Church Hall at Monton Unitarian Church. The Church Hall will also be serving Mince Pies, Mulled Wine and Hot Chocolate.

Monton Green will play host to Reindeers alongside funfair rides and will be the location on the light switch on this year. Monton High Street will feature Live Entertainment throughout the day including Monton Community Choir and the School Orchestra from Branwood School.

We are hoping that the council will waiver the car parking charges for the main car park for the day. Otherwise the car park at Dukes Drive is completely free all day.

**Monton Community Summer Festival – Liz Harris**

The first meeting of the festival committee will take place at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 6th December at the Blue Bell. Please come along if you are interested in getting involved!

All traders are very welcome, as it would be great if as many as possible could be involved in 2017. The festival will still be on Dukes Drive, but we would encourage the traders to do something on the day on Monton high street.

A draft budget will be presented by Liz Harris (Festival Director) at the January meeting.

**Environment – Maxine Coyle**

* Understanding the report about the car park – we require a new solicitor to go through this. Does anyone have any contacts, who might help us out please? Debbi Mosley suggested that she may have a contact. If anyone else has, please can they contact Maxine directly – maxinecoyle@hotmail.com

If no free consultation can be secured amongst contacts, Liz Harris proposed that we pay for some time with a solicitor. Ross Stevenson seconded this and a vote was taken. 12 For / 0 Against / 0 Abstentions

It was felt by most at the meeting that we should aim to approach the council to have 3 hours free or some kind of staggered levy depending on the amount of time spent. Local resident, Siobhan Youd cited Urmston as an example of this.

It was also pointed out that now that the residents’ car parking permit scheme on Algernon Street was going to start, there would be further pressure on the surrounding streets, so perhaps the car park would be able to take some of the strain, if prices were reasonable.

Dukes Drive is a free car park, just on the edge of the village – could the council signpost this as a FREE car park, to encourage people to park there instead? Peter Wheeler is working on this with Maxine Coyle.

* Also mentioned was the poor state of the entrance to the car park, which had been patched and patched, without long-lasting success. Cllr Wheeler to action this.
* Monton House – this is a real mess at the moment. Maxine has contacted the owner, Mr Fisk who promised to tidy up the gardens and the overhanging bushes and brambles. This has now been actioned.
* There are two worrying planning applications at the moment –
	+ 153 Monton Road - the last house on the Road just past Mastercuts) Reference 16/67534/ful – the update is that this is not due to be discussed in the next planning meeting. Possibly in the new year.
	+ 159 Monton Road (what was Neald’s Motorcycle shop) - Reference 16/68622/FUL – the update is that the planning application was rejected. BUT a revised planning application may be submitted “following consultation with local residents in Playfoots”. If anyone can shed any light on this consultation (dates/by whom etc), please could you let the Secretary know at mvcasecretary@hotmail.com or 07778 575 961, as not one member of the meeting knew anything about this. Peter Wheeler will look into this too.
	+ Alley gating – Lansdowne and Crawford - costings have been done to gate the alleys between these two streets. The Highways Committee is reluctant now to do this, as the costs for 9 gates is estimated to be £16K, so Cllr Wheeler will be pursuing this. A letter will be sent to the councillors to canvas their opinion. Peter W to report back in January.
	+ Swinton Treatment Works – it has been confirmed that there will be 250 houses on this site, as well as a community park. Secretary to get dates from Bellway Homes and United Utilities for the public exhibition.

**Church Liaison – Rev Anna Jarvis**

* Blue Christmas Service on Wednesday, 14th December at 7.30 at the Unitarian Church – the reason behind the service is because not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas festivities. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities.

If you feel that you might like to join Rev Anna for a quiet reflective service, please do come along.

* Monton Film Club had its inaugural event and showing of the classic “It’s a Wonderful Life” on Friday. It was a great pilot, with a couple of technical issues, and a lot of enthusiasm.

New dates to be announced in the new year via Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/MontonFilmClub/?fref=ts>

There will a children’s film on December 17th – to be announced.

* Rev Jarvis asked for MVCA support with a Heritage Lottery bid to secure money for the restoration of the stained glass windows, some of which are rare, old and in need of repair. A survey will come out to local residents about the bid and the Chair of MVCA will help Anna with the bid, in a supporting role.

**Social Events – Pam Ward**

MVCA will be organising events and activities throughout the coming year for local residents to come together.

Due to work commitments, Pam was unable to roll out an exact plan but this will be done in the new year.

If you have ideas, thoughts, suggestions or want to get involved, please email Pam at pamward2@outlook.com (note a new email address for Pam).

**Membership – Maxine Coyle**

Concessions = 49 / Full = 136 / Trade = 50 / Non-renewal for 16/17 = 80 (many of these were from the Festival and it was debatable if they would renew)

Maxine had some unfavourable feedback from 3 businesses, regarding the festival in that 3 so far, who have said that they will not be renewing their membership because the festival was moved off the high street. One owner was quite rude to her face about the Association, which should not be tolerated.

We hope that the businesses will come to the Festival meeting on December 6th to provide constructive suggestions, about how the Festival can evolve, both on the high street and Dukes Drive in 2017.

Recruitment - Applications are still coming in dribs and drabs. However, any active recruitment has not been progressed yet. Single handily, Maxine is managing the membership with help from Ross Stevenson with the database and searches. There are some ideas floating around:-

\* The leaflet for new residents is finished (thanks to Ross) and after Christmas hopefully, will be distributed to new home buyers by the estate agents.
\* Rev Anna Jarvis has said that we could invite people to the coffee morning at the church on Tuesdays. This would give residents who can’t make the evening meetings to come along and find out what’s happening.
\* Make more of the subscription aspect on the website to promote membership.

It would be great if a couple of volunteers might be found to help out with membership. If you are interested in contributing a little bit of time, please contact Maxine at maxinecoyle@hotmail.com Thank you to Rachel White for volunteering to help – it is much appreciated.

**Gardening – Florence McCarthy**

Salford City Council has advised us that they will not be able to remove the fallen leaves from the greens, due to cost cutting. Peter Wheeler will speak to Ben Dolan (strategic director for environment at SCC) and Dave Seager (Assistant Director Operational and Commercial Services Environment and Community Safety Directorate) to check why this is. Peter to contact Florence directly with an answer.

In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer to help with light gardening on Sunday, December 11th, please contact Florence on 07891 102291. All you need to bring is yourself and a pair of gloves, and as we shall be raking up the leaves on the green, a rake, if you have one!

We shall be out between 10.00 and 12.00 – meet on the Top Green! Tea and Coffee afterwards will be provided!

More bulbs have been planted, thanks to local resident, Jane Woodall and Florence and other members of the gardening team, so spring in the village should be a riot of colour.

**Retail Liaison – Liz Harris**

We have a new Retail Liaison Coordinator – Will Evans – thank you for volunteering with such gusto, who will be around in the village, visiting the businesses in the very near future.

**Schools Liaison – Liz Harris & Leah Austin**

We have a new schools Liaison coordinator – thanks go to Leah Austin, who has stepped into this role, with great credentials!

**Strategic Planning – Ross Stevenson**

Ross Stevenson is looking at 18th January for the next update – TBC – to share feedback with local residents and the next steps. Watch this space!

**Marketing Liaison and Membership Liaison** – these two positions are still vacant. If you are interested, please contact mvcasecretary@hotmail.com

**AOB**

We are revamping the AOB section, as a trial. What we would like to try to do is to get this section incorporated into the meeting, by learning from you before the meeting itself, what you would like to raise in AOB. This would give us the chance to look at these, pass them onto the relevant committee and hopefully get some initial thoughts and answers for you by the meeting.

So, residents will be invited to submit any AOB items by the Sunday prior to the meeting. Any suggestions raised after that date will be deferred to the following meeting.

If you would like to submit a suggestion / thought for AOB at any time, please send this to mvcasecretary@hotmail.com or contact Emma Gill on 07778 575 961.

Please note that there will not be a separate section within the meeting now for AOB, so if you do want to raise something, the only way to do this, is to get in touch by the previous Sunday of every meeting, so that we can add your points to the final agenda.

November AOB items raised:-

* Tracey Bradley “I am very concerned about the amount of traffic going through Monton. It seems that vehicles in both the morning rush and evening rush hour are coming off the motorway or heading for the motorway at Worsley, going up Worsley Road turning right into Folly Lane to cut out traffic jams on the motorway and the East Lancs Road and causing significant traffic problems in both directions in Monton. I was wondering if Salford Council could be asked to monitor traffic and set up an audit.” Peter Wheeler will look into this and report back in January.
* Maxine Coyle “Can you ask members if they would be happy for MVCA to send a donation to one of the homeless charities. I see more and more around Manchester and Salford and it may only be a drop in the ocean but it is something that may make a little difference.” Siobhan Youd proposed a donation of £100 to both Salford Loaves and Fishes and Coffee4Craig. Seconded by Pam Ward. Vote count – 11 for / 0 against / 1 Abstention. The Secretary to advise the Treasurer to get the donations sent over to the relevant charities.
* Emma Gill “venue for MVCA meetings for 2017” – proposed moving from Leo’s to the Memorial Church Hall at the Unitarian Church, as it was a quieter venue, although a little further away from the centre of the village. The membership was asked what they thought of the venue, and everyone seemed to like it much more. The charge per hour for a meeting room is £8, making a total annual spend of £160. Teapots / coffee pots / spoons can be provided by the church. A vote to spend £160 + a contribution to buy our own tea/coffee/sugar/milk was carried unanimously (12 – 0)
* Elizabeth Yeates “Update on the village defibrillator” - AED application has been sent off and it seems North West Ambulance will fund it all, but this needs to be confirmed.

**NEXT MEETING will take place on Wednesday, January 25th, 2017 – the upstairs meeting room in Memorial Hall at the Unitarian Church – 6.50 pm for a prompt start at 7.00 pm**