**Minutes of the MVCA meeting: 25th April, 2018**

**Dates for your diaries:**

**Wednesday, May 30th** – MVCA meeting – Unitarian Church Hall at 7.00 pm

**Sunday, June 10th –** Family Litter Pick – 11.00 meet at the Veterans’ Shelter

**Friday, May 25th** – Monton Film Club – Monton Unitarian Church

**Saturday, June 30th** – Summer fundraising event 2018

**Saturday June 30th and Sunday July 1st** – Funfair on the green

**Attendees:** Emma Gill (Secretary) / Pam Ward / Florence McCarthy / Cllr Michael Wheeler / Leah Austin / Maxine Coyle / Carolyn Cullen (Treasurer) / Jan Phelan (Deputy Chair) / Gina Burrows / Keith Hallam / David Haley (Worsley Golf Club) / Nigel Shipley / Matt Hamblett / Peter Clough / Neil Seddon / Emily Wheathon / S. Matthews / J. Hardman / J. Shaw / J. Mitchell / Vince Ryan

**Apologies:** Bee Morrison / Phil Crusham / Ross Henderson / Judith Gibson / Rev Anna Jarvis / Roger Glew / Rosemary Boardman / Ian James / Peter Wheeler / Chris Bentley / Angela Walter

Jan Phelan (Deputy Chair) conducted the meeting and Emma Gill (Secretary) took the minutes. Introductions were done around the table.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Finance**

Carolyn Cullen (Treasurer) proposed that for annual spends (insurance, public liability, auditing, website maintenance, and refreshments for monthly meetings), the Officers should be allowed to pay for such items, without individual permission from the membership. Based on 2017, this value came to £1800. This was seconded by Maxine Coyle and put to the membership present at the meeting. 11 votes for / 0 against / 0 abstentions. These spends will be monitored by the Treasurer throughout the year, to ensure that costs are kept in line with 2017 + inflation. They will also be subject to publication at the next AGM.

**Environment**

Quaker Bridge – graffiti has been reported to the council who will clean this off both sides of the bridge.

The two benches for the high street are still awaiting installation by Urban Vision. This is in hand and our contact at UV is hoping for good news from the contractors. As these are being given to us free of charge as a donation to MVCA, we should be patient! Maxine to update.

Potholes are an issue, and Maxine is trying to get these filled in and around the village. Stableford Avenue (down to the golf club) is a particular problem. David Haley from the golf club is also trying to get this resolved. Is this a private road or the responsibility of the council? Peter Wheeler to advise.

**Summer Event – Jan Phelan for Liz Harris**

The funfair will be coming on Saturday June 30th and Sunday July 1st.

Other events to be announced.

**Membership – Carolyn Cullen**

It is renewal time for anyone who wishes to have a discount card for offers on the high street and to become a member of MVCA. If you were a member in 2017-18, you should have received a reminder email – so please check your Spam folder, in case it has disappeared in there! Alternatively, if you wish to become a new member, you can apply [here](https://www.montonvillage.org.uk/become-a-member)

So far 124 people have renewed – thank you!

**Gardening – Florence McCarthy**

Cherry trees are out in blossom, including the new tree donated to us by the Rotary Club. It is only now that we realise that this new tree has white blossom, and not pink, like the other trees.

Two new volunteers for the gardening have come to join us – thanks to Keith Hallam and Julia Martin. We go out every Sunday from 10.00 – 12.00 – please do come and join us, even if it is only for a short amount of time, you will be very welcome and we shall be very grateful! No previous gardening experience is needed. Meet by the Veterans’ Shelter. A suggestion was made to add this to social media to attract more volunteers. Jan Phelan / Liz Harris to action.

One of the history boards has been badly damaged during a car crash – can we get this replaced through the insurance company of the person responsible for the accident? Maxine to pursue.

The roundabout looks very colourful right now – in spite of the dandelions! There are two adverting hoardings on the roundabout – where does the money from the advertising go? Could MVCA be given a share of this, as we are keeping the roundabout looking tidy and we look after it? Michael Wheeler to investigate and advise.

**PROJECTS UPDATES**

**Love where you live – Jan Phelan and Leah Austin**

Fantastic turnout on Sunday, 22nd April for the April litter pick, with over 30 people turning up, in spite of the rain. Thank you to everyone who came along and got involved! The next one is on June 10th.

Fly tipping should be reported immediately to the council. This link [here](https://www.salford.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/report-fly-tipping-graffiti-litter-and-dog-fouling/) will take you straight to the Council’s website.

There was a general discussion about litter in general in and around Monton, which is a growing issue. One resident complained that she had found a used condom on her road, and others mentioned the every present litter from the takeaway establishments and glass, cigarette butts etc. from the restaurants and bars. The general feeling in the room was that people were fed-up with the mess, and we would like the traders to help with this – either by encouraging their visitors to be respectful of the village, by taking their litter with them or by the traders themselves cleaning their frontages. It was suggested that Ian James speak with the traders for their suggestions and input, with a possibility of them becoming part of Love Where You Live.

**CommUNITY – Gina Burrows**

Gina talked to the meeting about an incident on Monton high street where a young person with learning difficulties had struggled to make themselves understood in one of the bars/restaurants. As a teacher at [Rumworth School](https://rumworth.weebly.com/welcome.html) Bolton, which provides education for 11-19 year old children, who have a range of learning difficulties and additional needs, as well as 19 – 25 year olds through [LifeBridge](http://lifebridgeasend.weebly.com/), Gina was struck by how difficult a situation this was for all involved. She is looking to roll out a scheme in Monton with the retailers hopefully to make people more aware of how to respond to different needs, and is looking to gain some funding from CVS which she has applied for. She will be interviewed by the CVS on Friday, and we hope that she will be successful with her application for funding to get this scheme off the ground.

**Moving MVCA forward – Carolyn Cullen**

Carolyn told the membership that there had been some discussions before and during the AGM with some newer members of MVCA to look at how to attract a wider demographic of members to MVCA. We want to make MVCA relevant to everyone who lives in Monton, so if you have any thoughts, ideas or want to get involved, please let Carolyn know at info@montonvillage.org.uk

**AOB**

**Monton Bridge Club – Peter Clough**

If you are already a bridge player but new to Monton, please consider joining other keen bridge players on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12.30 pm in the Monton Unitarian Church Hall.

**Living Wall / Project Flower Power – Matt Hamblett**

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The photo above is of the steps up to the Metrolink at Deansgate-Castlefield tram station, and Matt suggested to the meeting that we could perhaps investigate such a scheme for the walls of the motorway bridge on Canal Bank / Green Lane, as these get covered in unsightly graffiti. It would be great to do something attractive instead in the space, which would look great and provide habitat for bees, butterflies etc. We loved the idea, but were not sure how it would work / who owns / is responsible for the bridge / who would pay for it / if plants would grow etc., so Matt will research this and come back to us with some ideas!

**Welcome to Monton - Boundary Stones – Emma Gill**

This was raised a few months ago and a local resident, Drew Youd has kindly looked into the boundaries for Monton. The next part of the project is look at viable costings / ideas for Welcome to Monton signs, or similar ideas to highlight that you are entering Monton. Emma asked for a volunteer and Vince Ryan has kindly offered to look into this. Emma to send Vince the details of the boundaries. Vince to research and give an update in June.

**Boddan Lodge – Emma Gill**

Boddan Lodge, on the bowling green, is home to Monton Over 60s Club. The land is owned by the church, but for 50 years now has been leased by the council, who provide the bowling green and Boddan Lodge for the use of the over 60s club. This year the Council have announced they are not going to continue the lease. This leaves the Over 60s club without a home potentially. Is there anything that MVCA can do to help? Cllr Michael Wheeler will look into this and update us at the next meeting.

**Manchester Bee – Leah Austin**

As part of the [Bee in the City](http://beeinthecitymcr.co.uk/) event in July, the local Guides group which is run by Rachael Manley has managed to get hold of a bee, as part of the learning project associated with the main bee sculpture trail. The bee will be decorated by the guides and they have asked if the Association might want to be involved afterwards and host the bee somewhere in the village. The membership thought that this was an excellent idea and looked forward to seeing the bee, once it’s been decorated by the Guides. Possible siting for the bee could be the roundabout, which seemed fitting as there are lots of flowers, plants and bushes planted there. Leah to relay this back to Rachael and the Guides.

NEXT MEETING will be on Wednesday, May 30th at 6.50 for 7.00 in the main hall of the Unitarian Church Hall. If you planning to join us please RSVP to mvcasecretary@hotmail.com