**Minutes of the MVCA meeting 25th September 2019**

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Church**

* Connecting Communities – Meet Your Muslim Neighbour runs every second Thursday of the Month, 7.30pm – 9.00pm at Gilda Brook Social Club, 34 Wellington Road, Eccles M30 0NP– all welcome. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/2284463741771884/>
* Building work for the access project at Monton Unitarian Church has started. Rev Anna Jarvis requested that the Just Giving site be recirculated, as support is still needed for this project – any donations, however small, will be gratefully received!
* Monton Unitarian Church will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival again this year – date and details to be circulated when agreed.
* Monton Methodist Church have asked to be involved in the MVCA Christmas event on 1st December, and will provide a nativity scene
* Monton Methodist reported that they are working with Monton Green Primary School on the Experience Harvest, Experience Christmas and Experience Easter events
* Monton Methodist Church will be hosting Carols Around The Community on 17th December – everyone is welcome to join them.

**Gardening**

* Request for volunteers to help in clearing and tidying up the greens for winter – dates in November to be advised
* The composter will also need emptying – request for help with this
* Two trees opposite the Blue Bell have been removed as they were diseased. The Arborist is also coming back in 2 weeks to look at another tree which is of concern – outcome to be advised
* The new trough and sign has now been installed on the roundabout

**Social Media**

* A lot of Facebook feedback regarding shops closing, otherwise nothing negative. Has generated interest from local businesses in the MVCA
* Working on improving MVCA presence on Twitter

**Environment**

* Alley gating on Lansdowne Road is due to start within the next 5 weeks
* Thanks expressed to Environmental Services of Salford City Council who, despite difficult circumstances, have been very pro-active in dealing with issues when reported, including the graffiti on Quaker Bridge, fly-tipping etc.

Chair also expressed thanks to Maxine Coyle on behalf on the MVCA for all her hard work and tenacity when reporting and following up issues with the Council, including issues with the main Car Park

**Finance**

* As at 31st August 2019, the MVCA has £16,121.00 in the bank, however £10,153 of this is grants etc for the Veterans Shelter, leaving a balance of approximately £6,000.00.

**Membership**

* The MVCA now has a person responsible for recruiting more residential members, and a team looking after businesses. The Association is now looking for a system to merge the two together, to make membership renewal easier.

**Events**

* The Race Night made a profit of £515, plus £41 from the knitted bees (the latter to be donated to the gardening fund). The event was attended by 50 – 60 people. Thanks was expressed to all the Sponsors of the event.
* A proposal was made to hold a Christmas charity evening, including a silent auction, with profits to be donated to Salford Food Bank for Christmas. Proposed ticket price of £10 per head, which would cover costs and yield a profit for the Food Bank. A vote of MVCA members was taken, with 14 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions therefore the proposal being carried unanimously. Further details of the event to follow from the Events Team.
* Two grant applications have been submitted for the Summer Festival 2020 – outcome to be advised

**PROJECTS**

**Veterans Shelter**

* All repairs have now been completed by Schofields and additional tarmacking has been done by Salford Council
* The project has been registered with Heritage Open Days. A talk has been done for a private group.
* History Board has arrived and Schofields will put it up, free of charge
* Facebook page for the Heritage Walks and Heritage Day are going well, and these have also been posted on Eccles Past and Present
* Thanks expressed to Schofields for all their hard work on the Shelter – a letter from the MVCA will be sent to them
* Heritage Day (6th October from 2.00pm)
	+ Walk leaflets are being printed
	+ Posters are available from Florence McCarthy
	+ Tesco Express, Monton are donating tea, coffee and cakes for the event
	+ Blacksticks, Monton are also donating cake
	+ Vintage Ambience has also expressed an interest
	+ Any other donations for the day would be more than welcome - please contact Florence McCarthy
	+ Barton Players will be performing a re-enactment of the proclamation of the new king
	+ Joan Seed will be giving a talk on the Veterans Shelter

**In Bloom**

* The Award Dinner will take place on 30th October, when it will be announced which award has been given to Monton. Five members of the Gardening Group wish to attend the dinner, at a cost of £25 per head (£125 total) and a request was made that this be paid for from MVCA funds. A vote of MVCA Members was taken with 14 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions, therefore the proposal was agreed.

**Border Stones**

* Deferred to Council policy regarding signage – awaiting update

**AOB**

**Car Parking**

There was much discussion regarding the changes made by Salford City Council to the parking dispensation scheme. The issue is that residents on different streets have asked (in the past) for parking restriction schemes to stop people parking on their street. This usually means a cost to implement so there is often a cost to residents. PLUS as different streets make requests at different times, different types of scheme arise….

In one existing scheme, where a household does not have a Visitors Permit, they can no longer book dispensation on the day for workmen etc by ringing Parking Services, but must now book this online 24 hours ahead, giving the vehicle registration, at a cost of £10 per vehicle. Overall there are several schemes on side roads and this new policy is adding to the confusion. Whether it is the householders responsibility or contractors the process is too restrictive and difficult. Especially when it has replaced a simple phone call!

Councillor McCusker requested residents to identify specific issues caused by the operation and any suggestions they may have.

The Councillor has asked for a Briefing with the Lead Officer, Parking Services and other interested parties, which will take place on 8th October and has asked for any ideas/opinions prior to this meeting. Please email him on: councillor.mccusker@salford.gov.uk

**Rotary**

The Rotary is organising a scheme to collect reasonable quality coats for distribution to various charities and are looking for organisations to host collection boxes (200 litre) for the coats between Monday 7th October and Saturday 2nd November. Please contact us and we will pass details to Eccles Rotary.

**Christmas Event**

To be held 1st December – details to be finalised in October. Volunteers will be needed please!

Noted that Elm Bank are also holding a Christmas Event on the same day. MVCA are talking to them about working together to promote both events.

**Website Updates**

* Maxine Coyle has gone back to the website designer to request quote to redo the front page of the website – will bring this back to the Committee when quote received
* Volunteer needed to update the website (an hour or so per week) with information provided by MVCA

**Crimewatch Newsletter**

If anyone would like to be added to the email circulation list from PCSO Tony Fletcher, please let the Secretary know – mvcasecretary@hotmail.com.

**NEXT MEETING** will be on Wednesday, October 30th at 7.00 in the main hall of the Unitarian Church Hall.

If you are planning to join us please RSVP to mvcasecretary@hotmail.com