**Minutes of the MVCA meeting: 26th September, 2018**

**Dates for your diaries:**

**Family Litter Pick** – Sunday, 14th October at the Veterans’ Shelter on the green

**Gardening – Autumn clear-up** – Sundays - October 21 / 28 & November 4

**MVCA’s next meeting** – Wednesday, 31st October

**Britain in Bloom result** – Thursday, 22nd November

**Christmas Event** – Sunday, December 2nd

**Attendees:** Emma Gill (Secretary) / Vince Ryan / Liz Harris (Chair) / Rev Anna Jarvis (Unitarian Church) / Roger Glew (Eccles Rotary) / Simon Duffy (Retail Liaison) / Pam Ward / David Haley (Worsley Golf Club) / Rachel White / Ian James (Retail Liaison) / Maxine Coyle (Environment) / Florence McCarthy (Gardening) / Laura Derbyshire (Save Our Neighbourhood) / Roy Harding (Save Our Neighbourhood) / PC Carl Blower / Mike McCusker (Labour) / Dave Minchella / Nicola Fleury (Kidzrus Nursery) / Natalie Jones (Kidzrus Nursery) / Jez Goudge (Beerkeepers) / Suzelle Goudge (Beerkeepers) / Matt Bell (Inspiring Communities) / Rector Ross Garner (St Paul’s Church) / Suzie Brown

**Apologies:** PCSO Tony Fletcher / Cllr Lisa Stone / Jan Phelan (Deputy Chair) / Maria Henderson / Peter Brooks / Carole Stewart / Mary Hodson / Paula Garstang / Nigel Shipley / Ester (Blind Pig) / Siobhan Youd / Drew Youd / Peter Clough / Ang Walters / Margaret Kerns / Bee Morrison / Charles van den Broeder / Patricia Newton / June Smith / Kevin Heakin / Alan Bradford / Anne Godding (Neighbourhood team) / Michelle Roscoe (Chatsworth School) / Bruce Thompson (EPRA) / Rosemary Boardman (Rotary)

Liz Harris (Chair) conducted the meeting and Emma Gill (Secretary) took the minutes. Introductions were done around the table.

NB: some members have let me know that they do not seem to receive the meeting agendas or minutes any longer – please do check your Spam and Junk folders. Please also add mvcasecretary@hotmail.com to your safe address list, so that the emails don’t go to Junk/Spam.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

PC Carl Blower (beat officer for Eccles area) attended for the first time to discuss concerns that have been raised recently by local residents, such as ASB / burglaries / noise. He acknowledged that ASB has gone up, citing recent events in Eccles, which has taken up a lot of his and the PCSOs’ time.

Contact details for Carl are: 07392 286201, if you wish to contact him.

Saving Our Neighbourhood – Laura Derbyshire and Roy Harding attended the meeting, as members of SON. [Saving Our Neighbourhood (Facebook group)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/163635197797862/) is a group of concerned residents working to save our neighbourhood around Campbell Road and Swinton Fields from the Bellway Development and any future developments on this land. Roy Harding spoke passionately about how residents have kept developers off this land for decades. Campbell Road / Swinton fields is a rare and precious open space of varied habitat that is filled with biodiverse wildlife. It deserves saving for future generations.

The impact of the Bellway proposed development will be felt by the entire neighbourhood and will be unsustainable: increased traffic, pollution, and pressure on already struggling infrastructure like schools and medical facilities. Section 106 money (money that developers are obliged to use towards infrastructure schemes etc) is potentially not going to go towards new access routes / schools / doctor’s surgery. SON feels that SCC is not listening to local views and is disregarding concerns.

If you feel strongly about the impact that 250 extra houses in the area, and the missing infrastructure to support such a development, please consider joining Saving Our Neighbourhood or contact Carol Boyce at savingourneighbourhood@gmail.com to discuss further.

Beerkeepers is a new e-business set up by Jez and Suzelle Goudge, supplying craft beers online with delivery options available locally. Monton is a FOC delivery zone! For more information, please check out [Beerkeepers' website](https://www.beerkeepers.co.uk/) or Phone: 0333 050 1437 (9am - 6pm Mon-Fri, 10am - 3pm Sat)

E-mail: info@beerkeepers.co.uk

KidzRus is the new nursery which will be opening shortly in Monton – for further details, please see their website [Kidzrus in Monton](https://www.kidzrusnursery.co.uk/monton-coming-soon/) or ring 0161 743 9315.

Mike McCusker is the Labour candidate for the position of Eccles councillor, following Cllr Peter Wheeler standing down earlier, which forced a by-election. Mike came to meet MVCA members. As I type up the minutes on 30.09.18. I can report that Mike was duly elected. Further information about the results can be found [here](https://www.salford.gov.uk/your-council/news/eccles-by-election-results-announced/).

Following a lengthy introductions section, we reviewed the Minutes from July.

* PC Blower will check the trading status of the mobile florist, stationed on Duke’s Drive.
* The homeless man seen on several occasions in Monton appears to have gone, PC Blower will keep an eye out for him.
* Park Road (anti-social and dangerous/illegal use of the one-way section) PC Blower and Mike McCusker/Paula Garstang will look into this.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Environment – Maxine Coyle**

* HUGE thank you to Matt Longstaff and Urban Vision for supplying Monton high street with the two benches. They are being used regularly by all, so a great achievement by Maxine and Matt.
* Bins on the high street are being emptied more regularly now.
* Damaged road signs have been reported to Urban Vision
* Concerns still over the fate of Boddan Lodge – what will happen to the Over 60s club if SCC pull out of the lease currently held with the Church to use Boddan Lodge? This has been discussed before at MVCA meetings but there has been no resolution. One idea could be to turn the building into a Monton Community Hall possibly, and get more businesses / residents involved.

**Finance**

Carolyn Cullen (Treasurer) was unable to attend so a full report will be given in October.

**Church Liaison**

Rev Anna Jarvis from the Unitarian Church attended the meeting and for the first time, it was a pleasure to meet with Team Rector for the Anglican Church, Rev Ross Garner.

Monton Unitarian Church – new MU film club starting on 3rd October at 7.30. The film will be FORREST GUMP. For further information please see the Facebook page [here](https://www.facebook.com/events/239982416693324/).

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL - this year, instead of a Christmas Fayre, the Unitarians are hoping to host a Christmas Tree Festival, where organisations and groups are invited to decorate a tree, which is placed inside our church for the weekend of 8-9th December, and members of the public invited to come and view them. But for this to come off, they need your help to make sure we have at least 20 trees on display – please contact any organisations that you know that might be interested, and give them the contact details as follows–Michael Couser, Tel: 0794 008 6758, Email: couser\_@outlook.com

The Unitarians had a successful day during Heritage Open Day weekend. They are looking to improve the disabled toilets and access inside the church.

St Paul’s Church - [Quiz night](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmonton/photos/a.868617753198081/1938317672894745/?type=3&theater) on Friday October 10th and the annual autumn fair on November 10th. Ross Garner is the Team Rector for Eccles Parish Church, St Andrew’s and Christ Church, as well as St Paul’s. <http://www.stpaulsmonton.org/>

**Volunteers - Rachel White**

Looking at a short term plan to recruit volunteers for the Christmas event on December 2nd. If you are interested in helping out for a couple of hours and are free on Sunday, December 2nd, please contact Jan Phelan at phelan.family@hotmail.com Will advertise through MVCA social media and the noticeboard.

**Volunteer Roles**

Currently MVCA is looking for volunteers to take on the following roles:-

Secretary / Minutes’ Secretary / Website Coordinator

Further details can be gained from Liz Harris, Chair – liz@montonmarketing.co.uk

**Schools – Leah Austin**

The community bee (part of Bee in the City) will be collected by the 2nd Monton Girl Guides who painted their very own bee. [Monton's bee](http://www.gmwguiding.org.uk/index.php?pageId=673) will be donated to Monton, and currently the plans are to place the fibre glass bee on the roundabout; in fact this position has been approved by SCC. But objections / concerns were raised by local residents about the site, due to worries that people would cross the busy Monton roads to look at the bee. Please can the site for the bee be reviewed?

**Gardening – Florence McCarthy**

The Britain in Bloom award ceremony will take place on October 31st, when the gardening team will find out if Monton has been successful this year. Good luck to them on the night!

Putting the greens to bed – the annual tidy up of the greens will take place on the following Sundays – **21 and 28 October and 4 November** from 10.00 – 12.00. Please do come along for one or all of the morning to help Florence and the team get the flower beds tidy, ahead of winter. Meet at the Veterans’ Shelter. It is great fun, equipment is provided, tasks according to your ability and enthusiasm and there’s a free hot drink (non-alcoholic) at the end of the morning. Just bring yourselves and a pair of gloves.

On the patch of land leading up from Parrin Lane up to the loop line/disused railway line, the Gardening team is planning to plant an image of a bee in crocus, ready for the spring, which will be a riot of colour. Rotary Club may be able to help to provide crocus corms – Roger Glew to liaise with Florence.

**Website – Maxine Coyle**

Thanks go to Mark Rooney for updating the photos section of the website.

The Forum section is proving problematic as it appears to have been targeted by an automated spambot (a computer program designed to assist in the sending of spam), which is clogging up the forum with unwanted spam. The forum is not part of the website, it is managed by Vanilla Forums, so members suggested that Maxine contact Vanilla or get our website contact, Christian to check this out for us.

Members suggested using Captcha - a computer program or system intended to distinguish human from machine input, typically as a way of thwarting spam and automated extraction of data from websites. Typically this works where the human has to identify a number of objects in the series of photos or tick a box to confirm that they are not robots!

Also addressing the point that the Code of Conduct on the forum needs to be more prominent, to make people aware that they have a responsibility to treat people and their views with respect.

Hoping to add a section on the website called Meet the Team, to introduce the Officers and the committee members, adding a more personal dimension to who MVCA is.

Maxine announced that the team thought that the MVCA logo on the website looked dated and would like to replace it with the Festival one – see below.

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In order to make such a change, Liz Harris, Chair said that would need to be discussed further, as this was a complete rebranding of MVCA, not just of the website. To be discussed in October’s MVCA meeting and Officers to review Maxine’s proposal at October Officer meeting.

**PROJECTS**

* Christmas event – December 2nd.

The Christmas committee has just gained approval from SCC to hold the event on the main village car park on Partington Street (between the Naz and Cult). The car park will be closed from Saturday evening, to allow for set up.

There will be stalls, rides and Father Christmas will of course be visiting Monton! If you are interested to having a stall, please contact Ian at ilovemonton@gmail.com And hopefully, after some renovation and titivation, the blue post box for sending letters to Father Christmas will also come back for another year!

Liz Harris raised the question of the budget, which has not yet been submitted to the membership. This is now imperative, as time is running short and there is not huge amounts of spare cash in the MVCA accounts. Simon/Ian to submit to Liz asap and then to bring to October’s meeting.

Christmas lights - the Christmas committee has been looking a different approach to the Christmas lights. Have gone out to tender with local electricians. Retailers have suggested that current lights on Monton high street look a little shabby, and some are in need to repair, so the committee is looking at dressing the trees along the high street with strings of LED lights, rather than the shooting stars and candle/bauble that we have had in previous years. If shooting stars etc were in good condition, these may be installed as usual. The lights would remain in the trees all year round, thus reducing installation costs (similar to the lights on the greens). The lights on the green will be lit as usual, as will the roundabout. A full report of what will happen with the lights and the funding needed by the Officers ahead of October’s meeting, to present in the October meeting.

* Retailer membership - retailers are being offered a more attractive package to become members of MVCA, with enhanced publicity. £100 for 2 years, £60 for 1 year. Simon/Ian to give further details in October to what is on offer to retailers.
* Summer 2019 – as no-one came forward to run the Summer event as a volunteer community event, Darren Goulden from Staged Events has offered to run a community event for Monton, which will have an element of a free event, similar to the usual Festival during the day and a paid live music event on the same evening. Plans are still being discussed. Darren to give a full report to the membership on October 31st.
* Fundraising – Liz is discussing an idea with Worsley Golf Club – specific proposal to be presented in October by Liz.
* Veterans’ Shelter – Florence has submitted a proposal to the Heritage Lottery Fund, who is asking for further information about this project. We hope that this is a good sign!
* Living Wall – unfortunately due to work commitments, this has had to be put on the back burner until 2019. Nigel and Matt to come back to the membership.
* Village Signage – Vince Ryan reported that with the departure of Peter Wheeler, the project has ground to a halt, but he will take this up with Mike McCusker. Vince to pursue.

**AOB**

* Royal British Legion – Tommies – Emma Gill for Carole Stewart. Carole wants to see if MVCA is able to buy a statue of a soldier for the village, as part of the [There but not there](https://www.therebutnotthere.org.uk/) commemoration, set up to inspire communities to purchase and install the silhouettes of their local Fallen wherever they are listed for the Armistice Period, 2018, and/or to buy the RBL 6’ Tommy figure for use in a public space. Whilst the membership thought this an excellent idea and a worthwhile cause, no one actually volunteered to run with the idea.
* Over 65? Want to learn basic computer skills? – Matt Bell from Inspiring Communities discussed the next Tech and Tea sessions taking place from October 2nd for the next 5 weeks between 10.00 and 12, 00 in the Bling Pig to help anyone over 65, who is interested in becoming more tech-savvy. Learn basic computer skills, with patient tutors and local residents, in a friendly environment. Matt Bell can be contacted on 0161 743 3625 or just turn up on October 2nd at the Blind Pig at 10.00. Further details can be found [here](https://www.montonvillage.org.uk/single-post/2018/09/21/Tea-and-Tech---Free-IT-course-for-Monton-Residents-over-the-age-of-65)

**MEETING** will be on Wednesday, October 31st 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