

**Minutes of the MVCA meeting: 22nd February, 2017**

**Dates for your diaries:**

**Monton Community Festival meeting** – Wednesday, 1st March at 6.00 pm in the Memorial Hall at the Unitarian Church, Monton Green

**The Great British Spring Clean in Monton** – Sunday, 5th March 10.00 – 12.00

**Best Bar None meeting** (for licensed trade) – Monday, 6th March 10.30 at Enoteca

**MVCA AGM** – March 29th - Memorial Hall at the Unitarian Church, Monton Green

**Monton Community Festival** – Saturday, July 1st

**Monton Christmas Event** – Saturday, December 2nd

**Attendees:** Maxine Coyle (part) / Ross Stevenson / Emma Gill (Secretary) / Liz Harris (Chair) / Pam Ward / Cllr Peter Wheeler / Drew Youd / Will Evans / Jan Phelan / Florence McCarthy / Rachel White / Peter Brooks / Richard Hoddes / PCSO Tony Fletcher / Carol Wakefield / Leah Austin / Rev Anna Jarvis

**Apologies:** Bruce Thompson (EPRA) / Oliver Pirk / Judith Gibson / Stuart Lacey / Bee Morrison

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

Existing members had already received a copy of the minutes of the January meeting. No further comments were received about the minutes. Approval of the minutes was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Jan Phelan. Unanimously approved by the 12 members of MVCA present, with no abstentions.

The good news is that the heating in the church hall has been fixed, so this was a much warmer meeting – thanks to the Trustees of the Church.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Finance Update – reported by Liz Harris**

The Treasurer, Kate Herbert has provided us with the latest statement and a detailed account will be available at the AGM in March. There has been some major outgoings on the Christmas lights, which will need to replenish at the Monton Community Festival. However the accounts still show a fairly healthy credit.

**Christmas Lights**

Emma Gill advised the membership that the lights last year had been a great success but had cost us more than usual due to the new lights for the green, and various unforeseen issues, when erecting the lights on the main street.

We invited the present electrical company, J. Maybury to propose costings to MVCA for this year / 3 years’ contract / 5 years’ contract and for the wider remit of testing all the lights prior to installation on the green, the roundabout, the hanging light banner and the high street, installation of the same and removal. These were £2700 for 3 years or £2500 for 5 years.

It was suggested that comparative quotes should also be sought, and a final proposal made in the April meeting. Emma will action this.

**Environment – Maxine Coyle**

* Understanding the report about the car park – a new solicitor will now go through this and report back.
* 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 and has spoken to Ben Dolan at the council.
* 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 and speak to Nichola Gannon at Urban Vision.
* A local resident mentioned the bins at the top of the car park as there is an issue with rubbish. She had been on to the council who had claimed that this was not their land. Maxine will again take this up.
* Planning applications
  + 153 Monton Road - the last house on the Road just past Mastercuts) Reference 16/67534/ful – the update is that this was refused and deferred to the officers. Peter Wheeler suggested that this is not due to be discussed until the next planning meeting.
  + <http://publicaccess.salford.gov.uk/publicaccess/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=details&keyVal=OE7CSLNPJ0M00>
  + 159 Monton Road (what was Neald’s Motorcycle shop) - Reference 16/68622/FUL. The update is that the planning application was rejected and is being currently appealed, and a revised planning application has been submitted – no music / no balcony at the back / a change to the opening hours / restaurant at night / café in the daytime. Please note that the new reference for this is 16/69285/FUL

[http://publicaccess.salford.gov.uk/publicaccess/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&k eyVal=OIOJLYNPJFD00](http://publicaccess.salford.gov.uk/publicaccess/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&k%09eyVal=OIOJLYNPJFD00)

* + Monton Fish Bar is alleged to become the Zeus Bar and Grill
  + Zygos is up for sale.
  + Bargain Booze has closed.
  + Vintage Ambiance has re-opened with both daytime and evening service.
* Alley gating – Lansdowne and Crawford – Cllr Peter Wheeler is still lobbying for this as there is money for this project, which would resolve aspects of anti-social behaviour, so as fly tipping. A decision has to be made by the end of March. Other areas affected by fly tipping have had gates fitted, so we are hopeful that Monton might also get them.
* Swinton Treatment Works – Emma Gill chased this with Andrew Leyssens from United Utilities – at the time of the meeting the only comment was that the legal process was taking longer than expected.
* The Great British Spring Clean is a campaign with one simple ambition. To bring together people from across the country to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and coastline. Nationally it will take place between 3-5 March and MVCA has decided to get involved this year, given the amount of litter that is on our streets. If you would like to help to tidy up your local streets, we are meeting on Sunday, March 5th between 10.00 – 12.00 by the Veterans’ Shelter. More information about this national scheme can be found [here](http://www.greatbritishspringclean.org.uk/home/2684) Please come and join us, even if it just for half an hour or an hour. Litter pickers and black bin liners will be provided; just bring some gloves. Florence McCarthy will lead this, so please support her and the village!

**Monton Community Festival**

* Good start – the online booking form for stalls has opened.
* Recce of Dukes Drive and a plan have been started.
* Plans are well underway with admin / licences / First Aid etc
* If you want to get involved, please come to the meeting on March 1st at the Church Hall between 6-7 pm.

**Church Liaison – Rev Anna Jarvis**

* St Paul’s still does not have a vicar so progress has been difficulty.
* MVCA has been invited by David Walton at the Monton Methodists to do a presentation about the work of MVCA
* Table Top sale at the Unitarian Church on Easter Saturday
* Rev. Anna would love to hold a “Celebrating Monton” service, where all the churches get involved.
* Staff Conductor at the Northern Ballet has approached Rev Anna about using the church for a series of concerts, to encourage greater engagements with the arts. Watch this space.

**Social Events – open position**

MVCA would love to start to organise events and activities throughout the coming year for local residents to come together.

If you have ideas, thoughts, suggestions or want to get involved, please email the secretary (Emma Gill) at [mvcasecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:mvcasecretary@hotmail.com)

**Membership – Maxine Coyle**

* MVCA’s Residents’ booklet, highlighting aspects of village life is due to be published soon, and will be handed out to local estate agents, and will be available for the AGM.
* Renewal of your membership of MVCA is now available [here](http://www.montonvillage.org.uk/become-a-member) and on the website [www.montonvillage.org.uk](http://www.montonvillage.org.uk)
* You can also become a member at the coffee morning in the Church Hall of the Unitarian Church on the 1st Tuesday of every month, between 10-12

**Gardening – Florence McCarthy**

* If you would like to volunteer to help with light gardening on Sundays between 10.00 – 12.00, please contact Florence on 07891 102291. All you need to bring is yourself and a pair of gloves. Meet on the Top Green. Tea and Coffee afterwards will be provided!
* Old hanging baskets were offered to Monton Green Primary School for their gardening project.
* We have a new volunteer – thank you!
* Florence proposed buying and planting new rose bushes and asked the membership for £50. Seconded by Anna Jarvis and the membership voted 11 – 0 (no abstentions). One member had left the meeting earlier.)

**Retail Liaison – Will Evans**

* Will is speaking to most of the traders about their ideas for the Festival. It is hoped that many of the traders will actively look to do something special on the day. Enoteca / Six Cut / Blind Pig are keen to be involved.
* Main focus areas to improve footfall on the high street for traders will be the Festival and a revamped “I love Monton” scheme.

**Schools Liaison – Leah Austin**

* Leah is now liaising with the various schools and has suggested that some children (with supervision from parents and teachers) might help with the litter picking at the Festival. Great! Thank you.
* Monton Green School is collecting Sainsbury’s vouchers, so if you have any that you wish to donate, please contact the school 0161 707 2287.
* The school is also short of dictionaries and is looking to buy specific ones for the children, as a way of getting them to use a dictionary, rather than always going to the internet. Leah to report back what type of dictionary and costs, with a view to individuals or MVCA to fund this? Local resident suggested that Leah contact the publisher directly too.

**Strategic Planning – Ross Stevenson**

The goal is to present a full plan at the AGM for the next two years, focusing on key areas that came out of the local consultations, which are manageable for MVCA.

**Marketing Liaison and Membership Liaison** – these two positions are still vacant. If you are interested, please contact [mvcasecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:mvcasecretary@hotmail.com)

**Christmas Event – Ross Stevenson**

* Date will be Saturday, 2nd December

**Volunteering**

If anyone has any MVCA / volunteer associated **travel** expenses still to claim, please can they contact Ross as soon as possible? [ross@pride.scot](mailto:ross@pride.scot)

**Neighbourhood and Night Watch**

* PCSO Tony Fletcher joined us at our meeting. He has worked in the Ellesmere Park area for over 10 years and has now also been given the extra temporary responsibility of covering the Monton area as well. He will now be updating us with all the home watch email updates, and MVCA will also receive a monthly neighbourhood watch newsletter (pdf attachment) which I shall share with you as part of the minutes and on the website.
* Damage to the green by two cars driving over it.
* A couple of wooden bollards on the edge of the green are missing, so Cllr Wheeler will look at getting these replaced.

**AOB**

We have revamped the AOB section, which seems to be working well for the membership and the committees. 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](mailto: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.

February AOB items raised:-

* Welcome to Monton sign – raised by a local resident – people thought that this might a good idea and Drew Youd has kindly suggested that he might look into this initially.
* Pam Ward - Hawthorne Avenue – overgrown trees, creating a very dark road. Cllr Wheeler to assess and to contact Urban Vision.
* Alley gating – raised by Oliver Pirk – see above.

NEXT MEETING will be the **Annual General Meeting** and will take place on **Wednesday, March 29th** in the main Memorial Hall at the Unitarian Church – 6.50 pm for a prompt start at 7.00 pm. After the AGM and elections, there will be light refreshments for all. If you would like to attend, please contact Emma Gill at [mvcasecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:mvcasecretary@hotmail.com) or on 07778 575 961 (for catering purposes).