

Minutes of the Connect committee meeting held on 7/11/22 at 111a Middle Lane, Whitley

In attendance - John Harding (Chairman), Matt Wills (Editor), Joe McNeige (Distribution), Sara Whiteside (Secretary), Roger Hatherall (Accounts), Maurice Hubert, Suzien Harding

Apologies - none

Minutes from last meeting 22/08/22- accepted and signed.

Matters Arising - John has not yet spoken to the school but will do so. Roger will send the list of advertisers to John.

Atworth Request - after the email sent by Emma Roberts on behalf of the Atworth Parish Council requesting a collaboration with Shaw and Whitley regarding Connect, all committee members were asked their views:

Joe agreed with the idea in principle but that Atworth would have to supply its own distributors. He had some reservations about the logistics of extending our reach. Atworth's previous magazine, which had folded, was monthly, whereas Connect is bi monthly.

Maurice was 100% in favour of extending Connect into Atworth as he felt that it was important to have inter village co-operation, we should look at the broader picture and not be too insular. Our proximity to Atworth lent itself to greater collaboration and the people he had spoken to in Atworth were in favour. It should be encouraged provided we know how many houses would need to receive a copy and that Atworth could provide the requisite distributors.

Sue was against the proposal as she felt that Atworth, as a large village, should be able to produce its own magazine.

Sara was broadly in favour of the proposal but with caveats relating to the extra costs of printing and possible logistic problems related to the need for many more distributors who may not be forthcoming.

Matt, as Editor, explained that there were always issues with content and it can be difficult attracting this. He would welcome other contributors which might happen if we extended our distribution. He also realised that there were potential issues with distribution and that it would mean over doubling our present print run. The suggestion, (from Emma Roberts), that one page from Atworth would be sufficient, was probably unrealistic. There would also be a question over whether we would be seeking a contribution from Atworth School, as we traditionally have from Shaw School. Advertisers would probably welcome a larger distribution. In addition, Shaw and Whitley residents might be interested in events in Atworth.

Roger was largely in favour of the proposal.

John was not in favour of the proposal. Atworth had previously applied for funds for a magazine and computer etc and it was not clear what had happened to these funds. Atworth, as a bigger village than Shaw and Whitley, should be able to produce its own publication. Connect has been (largely) in existence for 40 years. It is successful so he could see no good reason to change it.

Going forward it was agreed that, in the first instance, we should set up a meeting with Emma plus a limited number of other representatives from Atworth. We should be clear about what we wish to achieve from such a meeting - we should ask Emma specific questions pertaining to distribution, additional costs, potential advertisers from within the village and whether she thinks there is potential for contributors from Atworth. Once we have answers to these questions we can make a more informed decision. We could meet in the Whitley Methodist Hall. A letter to Emma should be drafted and sent to all committee members for their comments before it is sent on.

Sara to action

AOB - Bill Embleton has resigned as a distributor and a replacement will be needed. **Joe to action.**

Sue requested that all subsequent meetings should start at 7pm and this was agreed. She questioned why we had had several pages devoted to houses in Corsham in the last issue, but, as previously stated, sources for content can be difficult.

Matt highlighted the issue with the village shop which is closing which would leave a hole as the shop is a regular feature.

Maurice stated that the planning permission off Westlands Lane is pending and, if granted, would provide an alternative venue for a shop.

Dunch Lane - there has been no complaints from the residents re the lack of Connect last month.

Roger will make the March 2022 accounts available before the AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.