

**PACT LTD BOARD MEETING 8th JANUARY 2014 HELD AT WHITE GABLES,
WORDSWORTH STREET, PENRITH**

Agenda

Present: Nigel Jenkins (NJ); Chris Cant (CC); Geoff Rockliffe - King (GRK); Peter Dicken (PD); Peter Ward (PW); Maureen Ward (MW); Christine Sutherland (CS); Peter Clarke (PC)

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Any declarations of interest to be noted for each agenda item**
- 3. Minutes of last meeting**
- 4. Finance update**
- 5. Sustain Eden Projects updates -**

- * Tree Whisperers - NJ**
- * Freegle Food Share - CC**
- * Opt 4 Switch and Save - PW**

- 6. Food Group update**

- * Prep for Stone Soup Day**
- * Community Gardening in and around Penrith**
- * Ideas for Eden Food and Farming Festival**
- * Other plans for the year**

- 7. PACT events programme for 2014**

- 8. Other matters arising -**

- * NW regional transition conference 2014**
- * Appleby polytunnel - update**
- * Local currencies**
- * Search for new Board members**

- 9. Any other business**

- 10. Dates/venues for next board meetings**

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1	Apologies were received from John Bodger	
2	Declarations of interest: CC and NJ Freegle project, PW and PC Opt 4, CC and PW Credit Union, PW Food and Farming Festival.	
3	There were no minutes of last meeting to agree as this was an informal gathering. Minutes of previous meeting signed by NJ.	
4	<p>CC reported that most of the money in the PACT account is from the Sustain Eden projects - and of the £20,000 in the bank, £15,000 is earmarked for the Tree Whisperers project. As agreed at previous board meeting £1000 has been deposited in the Credit Union (a £2 CU membership fee is included in this). PACT "core" money amounts to £2,700 including the deposit in the CU.</p> <p>We have still to apply for Charitable status, and CC will be talking to an accountant about this in the near future.</p> <p>Armstrong Watson comes recommended and there is usually no charge for the first interview.</p> <p>PW proposed that we should pay for help in preparing the accounts this year to take some of the workload off CC. PD seconded.</p>	<p>All agreed PW to check if we need a special meeting to agree to waive need for external auditor.</p>

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
5	<p>Tree Whisperers: PW,NJ and CS met with Dawn Hurton who has worked out the structure for this project. The first phase will culminate in June 2014. There will be Archive visits for the schools, woodland workshops with Dave Corrie and Gareth Thomas, a story writing competition and films. The project website is www.cumbriantrees.co.uk . The culmination will be centred around St Andrews and could be part of a broader Festival of Trees perhaps involving local businesses. It is hoped that a Teaching Aid will be developed which can be used by many other schools.</p> <p>Freegle Food Share: CC has put the Egg Map on the "back burner" for the moment, and is concentrating on the grow your own aspect. He will be sending out a questionnaire to monitor the progress of the project. There will be a Freegle Give and Take at Stone Soup Day on 1st Feb, and a seed swap in March. Chris is looking at the possibility of visits to local gardens starting from April. It was noted that Armathwaite holds an open gardens day and that Gregg Everatt organises one in Gamblesby. One concern is insurance - responsibility and risks to be assessed.</p> <p>Opt 4: PW reported that all the infrastructure for the call centre in Penrith has now been put in place. All calls must be recorded to comply with OFGEM regulations. uSwitch have been in touch and plan to come and train staff at the end of January. Opt 4 have advertised for a second person to work in the call centre, and are jointly funding a post in Eden Housing Association for someone to work one to one with vulnerable people to help reduce their energy bills.</p>	<p>PW to give MW a copy of the latest strategy for the file</p> <p>PC to talk to Allotment society re visits. PC to check if he is free on 8th March to act as Expert at Seed Sway Day.</p>
6	<p>Food Group: The existence of Social Supermarkets in Europe and now in England was discussed at the food group meeting. Oliver Coles has agreed to follow this up and provide further information. Stone Soup day is on 1st Feb and CC reported that money taken last year in donations at Stone Soup day is still available and will be used for community beds. Several ideas for the Eden Food and Farming Festival have been put forward via email to PW and he will put all these together.</p>	<p>PC agreed to organise a display of photos for Stone Soup Day</p>
7	<p>CC will put events already planned on the website's calendar and NJ will prepare something to send to mailing list. NJ to consider film evening for March.</p>	<p>NJ and CC</p>

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
8	<p>NW Transition Conference. NJ asked the organisers what they were expecting to get out of having the conference and has heard nothing since. Before committing time/money to attending this we'd like to clear what the benefits are.</p> <p>Karen at SLACC and Mark at Carlisle network are keen to meet up with PACT and exchange views, especially about local currencies. They will be coming to the next Board meeting.</p> <p>Appleby have been successful in getting grant funding for the polytunnel and have now got materials to make raised beds and to cover the tunnel. Carl and Malcolm have been clearing the area around the site. CC suggested that we use this as one of the garden visits.</p> <p>We agreed to continue the search for new board members.</p>	<p>All to read up about local currencies.</p> <p>NJ to ask if we can visit</p> <p>GRK to speak to Nichola V. All to look out for other possibilities.</p>
9	<p>We discussed the idea of having fewer board meetings. NJ proposed that we alternate Food Group meetings and Board meetings therefore making each meet every two months. MW seconded</p>	<p>All agreed</p>
10	<p>Date and time of next board meeting TBA after NJ has had a chance to check availability of guests.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed as a true record.....Date.....