**PACT meeting – Thursday 22nd October 2020**

7.30pm via Zoom

**Present: Directors:** John Bodger (Chair), Christine Sutherland (Secretary),

Frances Bell, Geoff Rockliffe-King, Malcolm Carruthers,

 Peter Simpson, Richard Waller

 **Members:** Ali Ros, Jaki Bell, Julie Stebbings, Liz Jablonski, Nigel Jenkins,

Ron Kenyon

1. **Apologies**

Philip Sturgess (Treasurer), Lucy Teather, Joan Robinson

1. **Declarations of interest**

None declared

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

Agreed: Proposed by John, seconded by Malcolm.

1. **PACT Admin**

**Membership**

We welcome three new members: Richard Waller, Julie Stebbings and Ali Ross, who have applied for membership since our August meeting.

We welcome our two new directors, Frances Bell and Richard Waller, who were appointed at the AGM.

**Finance update**

Total PACT funds: £4,174.40 Change since last meeting -£230.00

Gardening fund: £1,588.71 “ -£223.23

Repair Cafe: £24.46

Refill Grant: £12.41

Unallocated funds: £2,548.82 “ -£6.77

**Change of bank signatories**

We agree that Richard Waller will replace Chris Cant as a signatory on the Unity Bank account, joining Philip, Christine and John, and ask Philip to obtain the necessary forms.

1. **Offer of trees to plant**

Christine has been contacted by Craig Lovell of Homegrown Timber. His company is doing some work for Network Rail in the Penrith area and as part of their tender for the work had offered to give trees to a local group to plant. We think he is offering us approximately 500 trees, in packs from the Woodland Trust. These would need to be planted this winter.

Suggestions:

* work with a group connected with the station
* give small trees like rowans to individuals to plant in their gardens
* give some to local schools
* contact Dave Corrie, Peter Dicken (both Shap), Pete Leeson (Woodland Trust Cumbria rep)

Possible locations:

* Along the sides of the A6 and A66 in their approaches to Penrith
* Frenchfield
* Some areas of Penrith Town Council land – behind hospital, Scaws Drive, Thacka Beck?
* John Dunning land beside M6
* Eamont Bridge Bank, Castletown Rec

Points raised:

* Eden has a low tree count at 7%
* Many tree-planting schemes are badly planted or not looked after and allowed to die
* If we plant areas, what would their future role be? Picnic area, cycle route etc?
* We need to involve the public. This could be the start of a longer-term project.
* National Tree Week is 28th Nov to 6th Dec. We need to do something that week and get a picture in the Herald!
* PACT ran the Tree Whisperers project about 5 years ago and some schools received trees as part of this project

Taking this forward:

* Ali will contact schools
* Christine will find out whether the tree packs include stakes and tree guards
* Frances will write some notes about suitable tree species and those to avoid

**A subgroup will meet to take this forward: Ron, Ali, Peter, Malcolm, John, Frances, Jaki**

1. **Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership**

Basically our plan for next year is likely to be more of our usual activities – repair cafés, gardening etc and linking with the other partner in the project. PACT will get a pot of money to deal with ourselves including paying for our one-day-a-week co-ordinator. We need to make a plan about what we would want our person to do. Do we really want one?? CAfS could handle the payroll but there are other issues re employment especially if we employ a free-lancer for a five-year period. One-year contracts would be better. Hazel at CAfS has agreed to meet with Jaki and Nigel soon to go through the options.

Possibly a meeting with the other two similar groups, Sustainable Carlisle and Art Gene/Real Barrow, would be useful to compare thoughts on the way forward. Also a discussion with other partners eg Vista Veg about how we should interact with them.

We agree to have a meeting to discuss the way forward after Nigel and Jaki have met with Hazel.

1. **Updating PACT’s mission statement**

Jaki offered to look at this as part of a new marketing strategy for PACT.

1. **AOB**

**Green Recovery Document**

John recommended this document produced by Penrith and Eden Green Party

**Penrith Town Council Climate Action Group**

Hoping to set up a Community Hub in Penrith to be a focal point. Looking to appoint a Climate Action Officer. Hope to create more woods in Penrith.

Have written a Carbon neutral strategy which can be accessed here: https://www.penrithtowncouncil.co.uk/climate-change/strategy/

**Town Futures Group**

An informal non-political group discussing how Penrith town centre might be enhanced. Richard Utting has produced a document ‘What now for Penrith’s High Street’ – John will ask him for permission to circulate this. NB Penrith BID are separately considering this issue.

**Lunchtime Nature Talks**

Cumbria Local Nature Partnership are setting up a series of lunchtime talks starting on Tuesday November 3rd. Christine will circulate the details.

**The Environment in the National Curriculum**

Ron suggests that the National Curriculum should have a separate strand on environmental topics, including litter, climate change, outdoor education, food. He is putting this together in a document called Earth and Environment and has emailed Neil Hudson.

Ali said that the Green Party are working on the same lines and will forward a link.

Changing the National Curriculum will take a long time – a quicker approach would be to develop teaching materials to help teachers bring environmental issues into the curriculum. There is a youth element in ZCC and a Youth Climate Network in Cumbria, Jaki will send details.

1. **Dates of future meetings**

Tree Subgroup: Thursday November 5th, 7.30pm on Zoom.

Monthly Meeting: Thursday November 19th (provisional date), 7.30pm on Zoom.

ZCC Subgroup: to be fixed.