**PACT meeting number 2021-2 – Thursday 25th February 2021**

7.30pm via Zoom

**Present:**

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

Geoff Rockliffe-King, Malcolm Carruthers, Richard Waller

**Members:** Jaki Bell, Joan Robinson, Julie Stebbings, Liz Jablonski, Nigel Jenkins

**Non-members:** John Forbes (ZCC Project manager), Viv Tunnadine (PTC)

**1 Apologies**

Ali Ross, Chris Cant, Lucy Teather, Peter Simpson, Philip Sturgess, Virginia Taylor

**2 Declarations of interest**

None declared

**3 Minutes of last meeting**

Agreed: Proposed by John, seconded by Malcolm

**4 PACT Admin**

**a) Finance update**

Current total: £6046.50

Gardening fund: £2,763.71

Zero Carbon Cumbria: £750.00

Repair café fund: £24.46

Refill fund: £12.41

Unallocated: £2,545.92

The insurance for the coming year with Zurich Insurance is the same as last year: £99.31.

**b) Purchase of hi-vis jackets**

Jaki and Nigel have the old stock – 4 large and 2 XL. Viv confirmed that a grant would be available from PTC so we agreed that we should get plenty, perhaps 25 for children and 25 for adults, ready for litter picks, tree-planting etc. Viv and Jaki will liaise re the design and logo and get a quote from Penrith Embroidery.

**c) PACT website**

There was a discussion about the new website. It is important that we decide what the aims of the website are, what tasks we want it to do and who the intended audience is. Jaki and Richard shared the lists of aims and functions that they had thought of but would like to hear of more ideas. Some possible aspects of the website, eg local recycling facilities, might be best done in collaboration with other groups – perhaps a county-wide network to support all the sustainability groups? The subgroup will discuss the ideas further and then share them round for further discussion.

**5 ZCC (Geoff)**

**a) Community Action Officer**

The details of the role description have been agreed and the advert has been posted this week. We are looking for a self-employed contractor, not an employee, for 25 hours a month for one year in the first instance, to start on April 1st. We need an interview panel of 3 directors, Geoff will send a Doodle poll for directors to indicate availability and willingness to assist. He also invites all directors to suggest pertinent questions **by** **March 7th.**

Viv: PTC are also recruiting for a 21-hrs a week post. She will send the pack to John B.

Jaki: CAfS have score sheets which she will forward on in case we want to use them.

NB Sustainable Carlisle are currently advertising a similar post to ours and CAfS will be recruiting shortly for a Sustainability Network Co-ordinator.

**b) Transition visioning exercise (Richard)**

We agreed to wait until the CAO is in post before doing this as it will be a way for him/her to get to know us and about PACT. It will be run on Zoom over 3 evenings. Suggest that Richard and the CAO run it jointly, then the CAO might run it later for a wider group. We would invite the whole PACT membership to participate. Small group discussions might use Jamboards?

**6 Updates**

**a) Tree Group (Frances)**

We are hopeful that we will be able to plant at Frenchfield and Carleton Park, thanks to efforts by Ron Kenyon. Adrian Bamford of EDC is drawing up a planting plan for Frenchfield and Frances is meeting him next week at Carleton Park. The planting will be smaller native trees such as hawthorn and rowan. If we can get hold of trees in time we hope to do some planting at the end of March – Ron has various groups of people in mind to help.

Existing trees show damage from careless grass-cutting so we will need to consider how best to protect the new trees.

**b) Community Gardeners (Joan – email report)**

* **Railway Station:** We are still not able to meet and work here. Latest news is that we are in no way allowed to enter the 'On the Wildside' area between platforms. Avanti the train operator much more risk aware that Virgin was. The wall boxes Malcolm made are looking really good.
* **Hills Garage:** The new raised bed needs a session to raise the soil level.
* **Salvation Army:** Potatoes being prepped, garlic ready to go in. Onions yet to arrive. Broad Beans started off. Too early to plant much yet.
* **Coronation Garden:** Hoping to have a meeting here with EDC soon so we can decide if this is going to be looked after by different groups. Unfortunately the wall looks like it will be lowered to accommodate an extension to Voreda House. I say unfortunate because it lent intself to sparrow and bat boxes.
* **RHS:** I have not committed us to do any 'In Bloom' this year. RHS gave us £50 and this bought 3 bags of peat free compost and 3 secateurs. Following a request I have submitted a load of photos and text to do with our activities during Covid to go into the RHS London Archive.
* **Talks etc:** Zoom presentation to Melmerby Gardening group next month. Fiona has done a gardening interview with The Times newspaper. The Times including **northern** gardening at last!
* **Seedy Bus Station:** Carol has come up with the idea of asking village groups to share seeds and plants using bus shelters. We are exploring Edenhall, Tirril, Melmerby and Langwathby as venues and checking if villagers are keen to look after them. Carol is going to set up seeds and plants in her driveway and ask others to bring their surpluses. The Methodist will advertise it. Lucy at Appleby had our spare seeds for their polytunnel and to give away.
* **Tree Planting:** The wild cherry saplings went to Hunter Hall School - I don't know where they were planting them.
* **Bulb planting:** Unfortunately the A6 LHS area by Raiselands Croft has been dug up for pipe laying. We will have to wait and see if bulbs survive and be prepared to replant later in the year. We did ask the chaps to take care.

**c) Appleby Edibles (Lucy by email)**

* Lease from EDC still imminent.
* Design and planning still underway, including tree nursery and new Apple Cordon grafted by Hilary Wilson.
* Plenty of volunteer support is being offered including the Scouts and thanks again to Malcolm.
* Appleby Edibles will be working with Appleby Town Council on a 'whole town' entry for Cumbria in Bloom this year.

**d) Penrith Neighbourhood Development Plan (John)**

Stressful meetings with the inspector – he asked for evidence that the people of Penrith want sustainability written into the local plan. Nigel pointed out that the EDC rainbow coalition were elected on a sustainability mandate, also that the government had stated that it would not interfere with local policies. Jaki will forward the results of a local survey of attitudes towards sustainability.

There were also issues re the designation of the front of the Beacon.

Viv suggested that John and Ro were trailblazers and Penrith’s Neighbourhood Plan would be held up as an exemplar!

**7 AOB**

**CAfS update (Jaki)**

* There are new carbon calculators from South Lakeland District Council. There will be webinars in March for individuals and businesses.
* Also live chats re issues with heating and heating controls. See CAfS newsletter or website for details.

**Freegle-related ideas**

* Joan: when lock-down ends there will be more 2nd-hand clothes than the charity shops can cope with. Can we set up exchange events in villages/ market stalls?
* Nigel: how could more trade waste be Freegled?

**8 Date of next meeting**

**Monthly Meeting**: Thursday 1st April, 7.30pm on Zoom.

The new CAO should have been appointed by then and might be able to attend.

**Glossary**

CAfS Cumbria Action for Sustainability

EDC Eden District Council

PTC Penrith Town Council

ZCC Zero Carbon Cumbria