**PACT meeting number 2021-3 – Thursday 1st April 2021**

7.30pm via Zoom

**Present:**

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

 Geoff Rockliffe-King, Lucy Teather, Malcolm Carruthers, Richard Waller

**Members:** Chris Cant, Jaki Bell, Liz Jablonski, Nigel Jenkins, Ron Kenyon

**Non-members:** Rosie Bradshaw (Community Action Officer)

**1 Apologies**

Ali Ross, Cecilia Hewitt, Joan Robinson, Julie Stebbings, Peter Simpson, Philip Sturgess (Treasurer), John Forbes (ZCC Project manager), Viv Tunnadine (PTC)

**2 Declarations of interest**

Chris declared an interest as we pay him for work on our website.

**3 Minutes of last meeting**

Agreed: Proposed by John, seconded by Richard

**4 PACT Admin**

**a) Finance update**

Current total: £6624.93 +£578.43

Gardening fund: £2,848.71 +£135.00

Zero Carbon Cumbria: £750.00

Repair café fund: £24.46

Refill fund: £12.41

Donation from Penrith Town Council: £533.00 +£533.00

Unallocated: £2456.35 -£89.57

The Penrith Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor have donated their allowance underspending in acknowledgement of all the work and support John and PACT have given to Penrith Town Council. We record our gratitude for this donation, which is to pay for the high-vis jackets, with any surplus going towards the work of the Community Gardeners.

**b) Purchase of hi-vis jackets and litter pickers**

John will contact Viv re getting a quote for these and liaise with Jaki re logo etc. We also authorise John to buy litter-pickers, spending up to £150.

**5 ZCC**

**a) Our new Community Action Officer**

We are delighted to welcome Rosie, our new CAO. Geoff will have a meeting with her next week then individual meetings will be set up so that Rosie can learn about various ongoing projects. There are also various meetings coming up with CAfS and others which she might usefully attend.

**b) Update**

Posts at CAfS are being filled and there is a meeting on April 12th to meet the new starters. The Cumbria Sustainability Network Co-ordinator is currently being appointed and the Events and Training Co-ordinator role is being advertised. Penrith Town Council is also advertising for a Sustainability Co-ordinator and Eden District Council have already appointed one so there are a lot of new people to get to know.

**c) Waste Scrutiny Panel**

Chris is a community rep on this panel and hopes to find another from another sustainability group. The panel are looking or ways of improving consistency across Cumbria and sharing ideas for better ways of reducing or dealing with waste eg electric bin lorries, deposit return schemes, food waste (anaerobic digester?).

Other high level working groups for housing, energy, transport are still just getting started. The new ZCC communications person should circulate updates from these groups.

**d) Visioning exercise**

Richard and Rosie will discuss this next week and look at dates, maybe late April/May.

**6 Freegle funding bid**

The latest funding offer from the National Lottery is for projects relating to waste and recycling. Penrith and Eden Freegle are applying for funding for a pilot project to experiment with providing a collection and delivery service for Freegle users, to assist with the Freegling of large items and for those without transport. They hope to make use of the electric van service based in South Lakes. We agree that John should write a letter expressing PACT’s support for this scheme. Chris will send details in the next few days.

**7 Preparation for COP-26**

CAfS suggest that events across Cumbria should be focussed in one week in September, for maximum impact. Richard has already offered some talks – on the impact of climate change on glaciers and on permafrost, and on electric vehicles – which could be incorporated. Possibly tree-planting could be tied in. If the situation permits we will aim for one or more live events as well as online.

**8 Brief updates**

**a) Tree Group (Frances, Ron)**

We are hopeful that we will be able to plant at Frenchfield and Carleton Park in the autumn.

**b) Appleby Edibles (Lucy)**

They almost have their lease! A new wheelchair-accessible raised bed is being made. Two skips have ben filled with rubbish.

**c) Penrith Town Centre Group (Geoff)**

The group continues to meet and work on their document about the future of Penrith town centre. However this is impacted by the uncertainty about the possible abolition of EDC and imposition of a unitary authority.

**d) Borderlands Initiative (Geoff)**

The Borderlands Initiative as a scheme covering the five counties along the England/Scotland border. In Cumbria most funding is being directed to improving Carlisle railway station and the area around it but there is a small amount of funding for other towns. PACT was invited to respond to questions about our vision of the future of Penrith – John will reply on our behalf.

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

* Rotary have been left £8000 for work on St Andrews churchyard bottom area. Gemma and I discussed and consulted users on the area as to what they wanted. It looks like things will be slow to move re permissions.
* Our plan for a willow arch and stepping stones for kids didn't go anywhere. Rotary getting in a Landscaper. They want to add picnic benches as well at some stage.
* This week we have started preparing for a DIY fairy garden in the top part of the wooded area there. We will invite folks to add to it. (Just for the summer)
* Gemma has prepared a wildlife trail around the town ready for 13th April launch by PTC.
* We returned to gardening last Tuesday and will meet every week. Also working with 4Eden on Thursday mornings.
* Take a look down Hunter Lane at our progress.
* Louise has painted the boxes in Angel Lane and replanted.
* x80 willow gone to Alston School for weaving.
* 200 sunflower seedlings almost ready to go out. Seeds sent to Milburn School for a village project.
* Carol continues to give away surplus seeds and plants for us from her driveway in Wordsworth St.
* Com Gardeners have been entered in Britain in Bloom to represent Cumbria even though we did not agree!
* Meeting Rev David after Easter to talk through his views on St Andrews and Christchurch outside possibilities.

**f) Lancaster University Plastics Group (Lucy)**

Lucy reminded us about the plastics workshop that some of us attended. She will see what follow-up she can find.

**g) Refill Scheme (Jaki)**

The refill scheme has been quiet during Covid but is still ticking over nationally and Jaki hopes to get more awareness-raising going. There is a World Refill Day on June 16th.

**h) Gas peaking plants**

We are very disappointed that the two gas peaking plants at Shap were approved. It seems that the planners did not have grounds for refusal, despite EDC’s declaration of climate emergency. The plants will be running 11 hours a day producing a huge amount of CO2. There was an excellent letter in the Herald (27.3.21) describing the need for changes to planning policy.

**i) Communications (Jaki)**

Jaki will produce a PACT newsletter soon with an introduction to Rosie, an update on our plans for year 1 of ZCC etc.

**j) Newton Rigg (Lucy)**

Lucy raised the issue of the selling off of Newton Rigg but it was not felt that PACT or CAfS were in a position to do anything about it. Many people are still working to try to prevent the closure. Volunteers are going into the college to care for the plants and Lucy may join them.

**k) Eden Housing Association (Malcolm)**

EHA have a commitment to going greener but are daunted by the costs, eg the costs of alternatives to gas boilers.

**8 Date of next meeting**

**Monthly Meeting**: Thursday 6th May, 7.30pm on Zoom.

**Glossary**

CAfS Cumbria Action for Sustainability

EDC Eden District Council

PTC Penrith Town Council

ZCC Zero Carbon Cumbria