**PACT meeting number 2022-1 – Wednesday 16th February 2022**

7pm via Zoom

**Present:**

Directors: Richard Waller (acting Chair), Christine Sutherland (Secretary), Philip Sturgess (Treasurer), Geoff Rockliffe-King, John Bodger, Malcolm Carruthers

Members: Ali Ross, Chris Cant, Frances Bell, Jaki Bell, Joan Robinson, Liz Jablonski, Lucy Teather, Nigel Jenkins, Peter Dicken

Others: Rosie Bradshaw (CAO), John Forbes (ZCC)

**Apologies**

Ron Kenyon, Emma Warner, Lynn Barnes

**Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of last meeting were accepted.

**PACT ADMIN**

**Finance update**

Balance Change since last meeting

Current total: £13,140.87 +£1,738.21

Gardening fund: £2,322.29 -£400.25 *(expenses July-Dec 2021)*

Refill fund: £12.41 no change

Repair café £24.46 no change

Donation from PTC: £108.56 no change

ZCC: £7,360.90 +£2,089.21

*(Y2 Q1 payment from CAfS, Repair café and Freegle event advertising, hire of hall etc)*

ZCC Youth Programme: £1,053.29 no change

Unallocated: £2,258.96 +£49.25 *(Bank charges, website hosting, membership)*

**New and recent members**

* We accept Maria Day into membership.
* Jaki proposed a buddy scheme, where one of us offers to meet up with new members to get to know a bit about them and tell them more about PACT. Christine will contact those who have joined in the last year to offer this. Jaki and Ali offered to be buddies.

**PACT Community Action Officer role**

* Rosie has had to give up most of her paid work due to long Covid and has asked to be released from her contract with PACT. However she may relocate to Penrith and join us as a volunteer! We are sorry that Rosie needs to take this step but thank her for her enthusiasm and her contributions to both PACT and ZCC since she joined us last April.
* Rosie may still be able to manage a couple of hours a week. Jaki will liaise with Chris and Malcolm re the tasks and hours needed to support the Repair café and Freegle events.
* John Forbes confirmed that it would be ok to use some of our ZCC grant for temporary cover. Procurement of service, say up to £1,500, as long as we offer the same rate of pay as we paid Rosie. Someone from CAfS may be able to assist while we decide how and when to recruit a new CAO.

**PACT email addresses (Chris)**

* Our email system is currently provided by Google for free but this will end in May. We actually have 22 mailboxes but most are currently unused.
* Chris suggested that we switch to use our domain name provider Gandi who will give us 5 free mailboxes with 3GB max in them, we can have more if we need them. We will try to reduce our email addresses to 5 by the end of April. Chris will draw up a list.
* Chris would handle the email changeover for free.
* NB PACT website: the changeover to WordPress is still in hand - Chris, Jaki and Richard are meeting soon to discuss. We will be paying Chris for this work.

**Pattern of meetings**

* We agreed we would continue to meet monthly on Zoom but vary the evening where possible to try to include more people.
* The Directors will hold a separate meeting when they feel it is needed. A Directors meeting was held on January 21st.

**Polytunnel**

* Seagulls have pecked holes in the roof of the polytunnel, it will need to be replaced in the autumn.
* ZCC money could be used, we have a budget figure for equipment. The polytunnel is crucial to many aspects of our ZCC bid – growing plants for the town, food to give away, building community…
* Grant options: Community Climate Grants Scheme, local council grants, COP26 fund?
* Protection for the new roof – owl silhouette? plus netting.

**Proposed series of talks**

* Jaki has set up a document on the Google drive with some suggestions: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1csvAWFktkBbWXcRzumUir0VbtWRxC3j8qqaYy8EBaiA/edit?usp=sharing>
* She and Rich need help with setting these up. Want to promote them as a series.
* Need to think about different audiences. Make links with different groups, different age groups.
* Other types of events, films, workshops. Mixture of online and face-to-face.
* PACT has money we can spend on advertising.
* Joan is organising a talk on soil, liaising with horticulture groups.

**UPDATES**

**Repair café (Chris)**

* Continuing on the second Saturday of each month, with plenty of volunteers.
* They have a new logo and new advertising.
* It’s an opportunity for people to meet up over a coffee as well as get things mended!
* March 12th: Seedy Saturday with seeds etc provided by the Community Gardeners, a gardening Freegle and a Garden Organic stall.
* April 9th: Long Grass for Nature theme/ No Mow May.
* Records are kept of the items repaired and Jaki has put some of this data into a spreadsheet – it should be possible to make an estimate of the carbon saved. Student project?
* We understand that Carlisle and Brampton are starting Repair Cafés.

**Freegle (Chris)**

* A successful event at Newbiggin (Stainton) on February 5th. Lots of donations despite a very wet day. Large amounts taken to charity shops afterwards.
* No further events booked yet but Chris hopes one can be held approx every 3 months, around Eden district.

**Community Gardeners (Joan)**

* ‘Selling’ seeds, cards and strawberry plants at the station has raised £200 in donations. Will move their stall to Rheged soon.
* Seeds packed up for Seedy Saturday, any left will go to Rheged.
* Meeting district officers to discuss sustainable planting around Penrith instead of bedding plants.
* Have received support from PTC (insurance) and BID (grant for new planters after vandalism).
* Encouraging people to grow sunflowers to celebrate the Jubilee. Have seedlings to give away.
* Talking to Lowther Castle garden design students and various other groups

**Appleby Edibles (Lucy)**

* Polytunnel cover damaged by wind this evening.
* Replanting Hilary’s heritage apple cordon. Will plant a tree with the mayor for the Jubilee.
* Lucy will host a sustainable gardening event at the garden. No longer Chair but still involved.
* Geoff offered PACT’s support, practical and financial as needed.

**Tree planting**

* Successful planting session at Frenchfield in December with over 30 volunteers. Philip has a team of Hunter Hall students ready to water the trees when needed.
* The tree group should meet to discuss planting wildflower seeds in March and longer term care.
* Tree planting at Matterdale, March 5th to 12th: <https://www.another-way.org.uk/tree-planting/>

**Penrith Futures Partnership (Geoff)**

* Good response to the article in the Herald, lots of interest and feedback.
* The group could become a subgroup of PACT?

**Eden Community Fund (Geoff)**

* John B and Geoff take turns to sit on this panel which meets three times a year, giving grants to a wide variety of projects. Most other participants are civil servants so they give a ‘community’ voice.

**Cumbria Sustainability Network (Geoff, Nigel)**

* PACT is well represented on this. Meeting dates have been fixed for the whole of 2022.
* CSN also provides learning opportunities, eg marketing (Jaki), working with local MPs.
* Those signed up to the Workplace system online are able to share information about a wide range of topics and subgroups are developing.

**AOB**

**Local Elections (Jaki)**

* In May for the two new unitary authorities. We need to raise issues re sustainability/ climate change.
* Could PACT run a hustings event?
* We need to counteract the negative #costofnetzero movement.
* Climate Action Officers are looking at how to merge the different councils’ Climate Action Plans.

**CAfS (Jaki)**

* CAfS is currently recruiting for specialists in carbon reduction and in community energy. See cafs.org.uk/jobs-contracts/
* There is now a Greenbuild Facebook group

**Electric Car Share Scheme (Rich)**

* Rich and John attended a meeting on February 2nd. Working on a questionnaire to assess local interest.
* See <https://como.org.uk/project/derwent-valley-car-club/> for an example in a rural community.

**Local consultations (Ali)**

* **Penrith Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):**

Consultation documents are at:  [www.cumbria.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/cyclingandwalking)

Survey is at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JC5Q9XR>  (until February 25th)

* **A66 dualling** – there is local consultation about certain sections until Feb 27th:

Appleby to Brough:  <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/17498164>

M6 Junction 40 to Kemplay Bank:  <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/40d4915c>

Temple Sowerby to Appleby: <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/5350e278>

Please comment! NB This whole project is based on the premise of *doubling* the volume of traffic on the A66, particularly lorries.

**Next meeting**

**Tuesday** 15th March on Zoom at 7pm. Tree Group tbc

**Glossary**

BID Business Improvement District

CAfS Cumbria Action for Sustainability

CAO Community Action Officer

CSN Cumbria Sustainability Network

EDC Eden District Council

ZCC Zero Carbon Cumbria