**PACT meeting number 2022-5 – Thursday 7th July 2022**

7pm via Zoom

**Present:**

Directors: Geoff Rockliffe-King (Chair for tonight), Christine Sutherland (Secretary), John Bodger, Malcolm Carruthers, Ron Kenyon

Members: Ali Ross, Jaki Bell, Joan Robinson, Laura Giles

Others: Kate Clement (new CAO), Georgina Stephenson, Viv Tunnadine (PTC)

**Apologies:** Chris Cant, Heather Heron, Liz Jablonski, Lynn Barnes, Nigel Jenkins, Philip Sturgess, Richard Waller

**Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of last meeting were accepted with the following correction and update:

* Georgina was listed as acting CAO but was in fact appointed to provide assistance with specific tasks, see below.
* CAO interviews: Peter Ward (ex PACT Chair) replaced John Bodger on the interview panel and 4 applicants were interviewed.

**PACT ADMIN**

**Finance update**

Balance

Current total: £13,889.72

Gardening fund: £2,717.29

Refill fund: £12.41

Repair Café: £24.46

Donation from PTC: £108.56

ZCC: £7,871.85

ZCC Youth Programme: £1,180.53

Unallocated: £1,933.12

**New PACT Community Action Officer**

We are delighted to welcome Kate as our new CAO, who just started the role this week. She also currently works part-time at Penrith library but over the years has worked with many Penrith community organisations and has a long-term interest in environmental issues. Kate and Geoff will have a meeting soon to discuss her role with us.

**Georgina’s work**

Georgina was asked back in February to provide admin and publicity support for the Repair cafés and Freegle events and to help to set up the series of talks. She was initially taken on for March and April for 30 hours per month, then this was extended to May and June. She has now been asked to continue for 10 hours a month specifically on social media work for a further 6 months to the end of 2022, as Geoff has established from John Forbes that this would be an appropriate use of some of our ZCC funding.

The Repair café has some new volunteers and new repairers. Georgina has managed to get good social media engagement, having made contact with various local groups who now share her information with their members. Appreciation was expressed for what Georgina has managed to achieve.

Jaki suggested a meeting between herself, Kate, Georgina and Geoff to clarify who is going to do what in terms of different types of communications for PACT.

**Support for Malcolm’s workshop**

Christine has submitted the grant application to PTC. She has heard from Viv that the payment will be agreed once she has sent through some supporting documents.

John will help with risk assessments for using the new equipment, particularly for temporary members of the workshop. We ask Philip to check the PACT insurance.

Currently Malcolm and his colleagues pay the rent for their workshop but this has been halved recently as the team have taken on a maintenance role for Eden Arts. Geoff suggested that PACT could pay the rent, perhaps to enable the team to rent a larger workshop space. Alternatively perhaps the rent could come out of the donations received by the Repair Café.

**New PACT website**

It is suggested that the new website would have a mixture of signposting, for people to find out what they need to know, and inspirational real-life stories about eg local people who have got an electric car or whatever. More details next time!!

**Series of talks**

Still hoping to start these in September with a talk from Paul Allen - Ali Ross will contact him. Then events hopefully monthly, with a variety of topics and formats.

**REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**ZCC Away Day**

Geoff and Georgina attended this day on behalf of PACT, Kate was invited but unable to attend. Jaki was there as part of CAfS. They found it inspirational to be together with so many like-minded people. PACT is one of 80 organisations involved in the ZCC project, and one of the 11 funded by the Lottery. There is a new steering group and there are sector groups on various topics (Chris is on the Waste one, Ali on the land use one).

**EDC COP-26 Community Fund - Ali**

Just launched. A £160,000 pot to be distributed by March 2023. A variety of categories covering climate change and biodiversity. <https://www.eden.gov.uk/media/6275/cop26_guidancefinalversion.pdf>

Matched funding of 20% has to be found.

**West Cumbria Coal Mine Review - Ali**

The outcome was due to be announced today but has been postponed to on or before August 17th. In the event of an unfavourable outcome demonstrations will be held in towns across Cumbria – Ali will keep us informed.

**Community Gardeners - Joan**

Joan’s report is attached (page 3)

* Joan is no longer able to do talks but the stall at the station is proving a good source of donations and has had to be enlarged to accommodate more donated plants. The group are unable to access the wild area for maintenance because of health and safety issues.
* Joan has been busy planting a wildlife are near her new home at Newton House.

**Trees**

* A plot of land on Beacon Edge has been left to Cumbria Wildlife Trust. CWT have been in discussion with PTC and they could also work with the Community Gardeners. Trees could be planted in memory of people as in the Swindon model.
* The trees at Frenchfield have a lot of grass grown up around them. John and Ron plan to go and carefully trample some of this down.
* Pete Leeson has shared a video of the tree-planting day at the Luham: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3g_2M_OcAXc>

**Possible ‘Solar Made Easy’ project in Penrith - Jaki**

Molly Hogg from CAfS has run a project in Ambleside called ‘Solar Made Easy’ to help people make decisions and find installers etc. Would PACT like to help Molly run a similar project in Penrith? See further information below (page 4). We agreed to invite Molly to our next meeting to discuss the project.

**Carbon** **Audit - Laura**

Laura works for the University of Cumbria as part of the Eco-I NW project, carrying out research for businesses in Cumbria, looking into their carbon footprint and how they can innovate to reduce it. Her colleague is part of Brampton 2 Zero, and with them he is assisting with a carbon audit for Brampton. Might this be appropriate for Penrith and PACT, with the aim for a zero carbon community?

We agree that it would be good to hear more about this. Perhaps the subject of one of the talks? Brampton could be invited to share what they are doing/ why/ how.

**Other suggestions**

* Should we restart Green Drinks?
* Should we do something to mark Great Big Green Week - 24 September to 2 October? Possibly linked with Penrith library.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

**In August** – date to be agreed after a Doodle poll

In Geoff’s garden if possible (White Gables, Wordsworth Street, Penrith, CA1 7QY) and on Zoom.

**AGM** – first week in October eg Friday 7th? Venue and format to be agreed next time.

**Glossary**

CAfS Cumbria Action for Sustainability

CAO Community Action Officer

CSN Cumbria Sustainability Network

EDC Eden District Council

PTC Penrith Town Council

ZCC Zero Carbon Cumbria

**Community Gardeners’ Report**

**Railway Station**: We continue to maintain the planters at the railway station although this is quite hard to do because of access to water for platform 2. Our plant cart is being well used for giving away plants (added to by lots of folks), has been extended and donations for plants has helped boost our funds. An article should have appeared in the Herald and is being chased up as all publicity has to go via Avanti.

**Coronation Garden**: With help from Soroptimists, W1, Old Codgers and the Methodist Gardeners we continue with the upkeep of the garden. Sadly, EDC /contractors are finding it difficult to keep up the standards they once had. A Millenium time capsule is being buried here on the 15th by Charlie Shepherd (PTC Chair) and school kids.

**Salvation Army**: The veggies are doing quite well and we gave lots away today. Surprising how many folks decline fresh spinach and kale.

**Town Hall**: The wild flower border continues to inspire.

**Stricklandgate**: Just a joy and full of fruit to share.

**Polytunnel**: Malcolm may report. Has full membership and is working better than ever.

**The Fairy Garden**: The fairies have returned to St Andrew's churchyard. Unfortunately Jonathan & Andrea's garden next to the churchyard has had 2 nights of vandalism; we continue to support and encourage them both to keep going.

**On the Wildside**: Our latest development next to the road at Newton House (Gillwilly roundabout) where I live. Lots of plants and tree saplings have been given to so that we have been able to turn a section of the garden into a wild area. Bird, insect and butterfly residents abound.

Our turnout of volunteers on a Tuesday continues to range from 8-14. Our finances are healthy.

**Solar Made Easy**

The first part of this webinar gives an overview of what the Solar Made Easy project is:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsKQC71HgWA>

The role of PACT would be:

* Being the face of the community engagement (which would also flag up energy efficiency and point to CAfS for support)
* Collating names of interested people, and doing the initial liaison with them to filter out who is keen to progress and gathering basic information.
* Depending upon your capacity, some on-going liaison with them to keep tabs on how it's progressing, but CAfS could do this if PACT couldn't (I'm going to try to get funding for a project support role as the numbers of people involved are increasing).
* Depending upon your capacity, making contact with larger buildings to see if they are interested in a community energy organisation installing solar on their roof

The role of CAfS would be:

* To commission a solar PV map of the area (as we've done elsewhere). This is both for engagement purposes and to identify the bigger roofs that might be suitable for a community energy solar installation
* Support to organise and deliver community engagement
* Be available to answer technical questions
* Work with the filtered down list of people to gather additional information and pass on to installers
* Liaise with installers
* Review / monitor quotes
* Approach the big building (potentially with you) as above. We would be looking to refer them on to either Baywind or Big Solar Co-op rather than suggest that a new community energy organisation is set up locally (although if people are really keen, Quentin could look at that with his ZCC community energy project hat on)