

PACT STEERING GROUP

Minutes of meeting held at Bluebell Bookshop 7pm on 6th July 2011

Present: Peter Clarke (PC); Chris Cant (CC); Sara Clarke; Peter Dicken (PD); David Brazier; Peter Ward(PW); Oliver Coles (OC); Christine Ellerton; Maureen Ward; John Bodger (JB); Richard Wood; Yvonne Parkes; Ron Parkes.

Apologies: Nigel Jenkins (NJ)

PW opened the meeting by welcoming visiting PACT members to the Steering Group meeting. It was noted that the idea of having a discussion open to members as part of alternate SG business meeting had already proved successful in that several people had joined in the "business" part of the meeting tonight and more would be arriving to take part in the discussion later this evening

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting could be taken as read.

MATTERS ARISING:

PW has not yet had a chance to type up the ideas from attendees at the AGM, but will do this shortly. Names of those who attended the AGM have been gathered and added to the mailing list.

Derek is moving out of the Bluebell Bookshop at the end of July into the building which previously housed Eden Carers in Gloucester Yard. As he may not be in a position to accommodate our meetings for a while, CC agreed to check if we could have our early August meeting at Eden Mind.

JB has spoken to Ron Kenyon about attending SG meetings and he will attend when he can.

CC has spoken to Dawn Hurton about writing up the process of the Story Giants of Eden Project for the benefit of others wanting to organise and find finance for a similar project. Dawn said she will be including some information about this in her forthcoming book.

FRESHERS WEEK AT NEWTON RIGG

The university would like PACT to have a presence at Freshers Week on 20th September, and PD, NJ, RW have already discussed the idea of a film night with Naomi. Naomi suggests that we encourage the students to get involved in any projects we are doing. All members were asked to think about projects which would benefit from extra help from the students so that we can have details ready for September. CC suggested that FREEGLE might look into the possibility of having an open day at Freshers Week. OC asked if PACT had anything to do with the event at Newton Rigg on Renewable Energy in Action. PW said that this was a planned event with DEFRA involved and it might difficult for PACT to engage in it. However he encouraged PACT members to attend - there will be presentations and tours of technologies.

PACT INSURANCE

CC pointed out that our insurance is now due for renewal. Last year the cost was around £150 and this year that cost has increased to £212 – this is based on an assumed turnover of £30,000 and includes Employers and Public Liability but NOT product liability. CC has to fill in the insurance renewal form and say how many volunteers are involved for the employer’s liability. It was agreed that insuring for 50 volunteers would cover any projects we had in mind. It was noted that we should check if PD’s pizzas – for instance – would be covered in this insurance i.e.: it is a “product”.

CC said that he would go ahead and renew the insurance as it is and will further investigate the issue of product liability.

It was noted that Sustainable Carlisle are currently deciding what sort of structure their organisation should have, and that perhaps we should also be considering whether to have a more formal structure in order to be clear about liability issues. PW pointed out that having raised the issue at a Steering Group meeting, if we ignore the issue and something were to happen the steering group would probably be looked upon as directors and held responsible. The process of becoming a more formal organisation would involve significant legal fees. It was agreed that we should discuss this in more detail at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

CC told the meeting that Chris Wood from Eden MIND had asked him if PACT could provide a volunteer “mentor” to advise on the sourcing of local food for a new cafe that Eden MIND are opening. PW suggested that they come to the Food Group meetings, and PD said he liked the idea of putting the onus on them to get in touch. OC pointed out that there was much information in the public domain about local food in this area.

Maureen Ward and Yvonne Parkes agreed after the meeting that due to Yvonne’s other commitments Maureen will attend and take minutes and deal with PACT business, with Yvonne filling in for her when she is away.

The meeting closed at 7.25 with the arrival of more members of PACT for an evening of learning and discussion about nuclear power – the first of the “themed” steering group meetings open to all. This was well attended, enthusiastically engaged in by all, and ably led by Peter Clarke and David Brazier.

PC agreed to put a brief summary of the debate on the PACT website.

Dates of Next Meetings

Action Group Meeting	Tues 19 th July 2011 7pm Bluebell bookshop
Steering Group Meeting	Wed 3 rd August 2011 - Venue TBA