**PACT meeting number 2021-7 – Thursday 5th August 2021**

7.30pm via Zoom

**Present:**

**Directors:** Richard Waller (acting Chair), Christine Sutherland (Secretary), Philip Sturgess (Treasurer), Frances Bell, Lucy Teather, Malcolm Carruthers

(+ Geoff Rockliffe-King briefly – internet problems)

**Members:** Ali Ross, Chris Cant, Emma Warner, Jaki Bell, Joan Robinson

**Others:** Rosie Bradshaw, Anthea Jones (Penrith Industrial BID)

**1 Apologies**

John Bodger (Chair), Peter Simpson, Nigel Jenkins, Liz Jablonski

**2 Declarations of financial interest**

Chris declared an interest in the discussion regarding payment to him for his work for Freegle.

**3 Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of last meeting were accepted.

**PACT ADMIN**

**4 New members**

We have received applications for membership from Emma Warner and Mee Kuon Cheong. Both were accepted and Emma was welcomed.

**5 Finance update**

Balance Change since last meeting

Current total: £10,188.28 +£2,315.76

Gardening fund: £1,947.54 -£666.64

Refill fund: £12.41 -

Donation from PTC: £108.56 -£424.44 *(hi-viz jackets and litter pickers)*

ZCC: £4,568.23 +£2,309.50

*(+Q3 payment of £2,585 - Rosie’s payment for June)*

ZCC Youth Programme: £1,159.62 +1159.62

*(+£1,475 payment from CAFS - Rosie’s payment for June)*

Unallocated: £2,367.46 -£62.28 *(Bank, Credit Union and website charges)*

When the Eden Credit Union was first formed we deposited £1,000 to support them. They have since merged with other credit unions and we have heard that the latest merger will mean the closure of the Cumbria branches. However we understand that most loans are set up by phone or app not actual visits to the branches. Philip will research other options for our money.

**6 AGM**

We agree to hold our AGM on Friday October 1st, probably with a physical gathering as a social evening. Richard will check the Parish Rooms re availability and what constraints are in place eg whether we can have refreshments.

**TOPICS**

**7 Gilwilly tree felling and replanting**

Ali and Anthea have both contacted CCC Councillor Helen Fearon but been unable to get any details from her regarding what is being done to replace the wildlife corridor which was destroyed last December. She claims to have consulted with local community groups but is not prepared to work with either Penrith Industrial BID or PACT and has never replied to the letter we sent to her in February. Three trees have been planted which have now died. Joan has offered trees, which CCC contractors must plant, and has scattered wildflower seeds herself.

Also recent tree-felling on Bowerbank Way – apparently this section is maintained by EDC and the felling was done so that rubbish such as shopping trolleys could be removed!

We ask Ali, Anthea and Joan to keep up the pressure and to share emails.

**8 Peat**

Jaki has put information about CWT’s activities re peat in the newsletters. She offers to write a letter to send to local nurseries saying ‘we hope that next year you will move to peat-free composts’. We will compile a list of peat-free options.

**9 Freegle**

We have heard from Elaine Bones, one of the moderators of the Penrith and Eden Freegle group along with Chris Cant. She asks whether PACT can pay for some of the expenses of maintaining their website out of our ZCC funding. This comprises: a one-off fee to Chris of £330 for updating the blog website, renewal of the domain name at £17.74 for two years, and an ongoing payment to Chris of £15/quarter. We are in favour of supporting this but need to find out whether the payment can be made out of our ZCC budget. We will make a decision at our next meeting.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**10 August**

Sat 14th – Repair café, Old Fire Station, 10 – 1.

Also accepting donations of school uniform for the next town centre stall.

Sat 28th – Stall at the Bandstand, 10 – 3.

Rosie will lead on the arrangements. Jaki will promote, Chris will promote via Freegle.

Christine will be away but will give a garage key to John B so that he can pick up the tables etc.

COP-26 leaflets will be sent to John – a leaflet produced by Sustainable Carlisle has been amended by Helen Attewell to be suitable for use across the county.

Ali will obtain materials re the coal mine (public enquiry starts 7th Sept.)

Ali and the local Green Party are preparing a petition addressed to Neil Hudson.

**11 September**

Sat 11th – Repair café, Old Fire Station.

Sat 18th – Freegle Give & Take event, Old Fire Station, 10 - 1. Similar arrangements to Repair café. Malcolm and Emma agreed to help Chris.

Sat 25th – Stall at the Bandstand.

Decide details next time. Rich can provide resources re extreme weather. COP leaflets and petition as above.

Talk on Zoom

Nigel is co-ordinating Big Green Week events across Cumbria and can let us know what is planned. Richard is happy to choose a topic to slot in. Suggestions – the COP ‘jargon’, ‘what can I do about climate change?’, an expose of the gulf between political rhetoric and reality.

‘Hustings’?

Should we organise a debate eg invite all the Cumbrian MPs?

**BRIEF UPDATES**

**12 Community Gardeners**

The Cumbria in Bloom judging is now completed, results are expected in September.

A 20-minute video has been made which they plan to send to local councillors.

An article about planting at the railway station has appeared in Gardening World.

Confirmation for permission to plant 2,000 wild daffodils at Penrith Castle is awaited. The daffodils are ordered and paid for. People are invited to pay £20 for 100 bulbs, perhaps in memory of someone – see the advert at the end of the minutes.

**13 Appleby Edibles**

Planting is progressing! Lucy has met with master composter Frankie Kennet and will invite her to our next meeting.

**14 Cumbria Sustainability Network**

Next meeting August 19th – Rosie and Lucy will attend. If the topic is Comms then Jaki will attend representing CAfS.

**OTHER**

**15 AOB**

- Shap Green Reading Croup has just met, they are reading chapters of Mike Berners-Lee’s book ‘No Planet B’. This is being supported by the library service. Perhaps we should set up similar groups in Appleby and Penrith?

- Vista Veg, who receive funding from ZCC to promote fruit and veg growing in Cumbria, are doing very well. There are already an extra 17 acres in production in Cumbria and should be almost 30 by the end of the year. The scheme is called Home Grown Here and the idea is that cafés etc will be able to buy local fruit and veg direct. [www.thefarmernetwork.co.uk/8290-2](http://www.thefarmernetwork.co.uk/8290-2)

- The new ZCC marketing manager has resigned so Jaki has taken over part of this role. CAfs will be recruiting two new marketing people.

**16 Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 8th September on Zoom, 7.30pm

Christine will contact the Tree Group to fix up a meeting.

**Glossary**

CAfS Cumbria Action for Sustainability

EDC Eden District Council

PTC Penrith Town Council

UCC Ullswater Community College

ZCC Zero Carbon Cumbria

**Wild daffodils at Penrith Castle – a Community Project**

In September we are planting wild daffodils with the new pupils (yr 7’s) at UCC along the lower roadside bank of the Castle.

**Linking generations -would you like to remember someone?**

Names will be added to a remembrance board next to the daffodils when they flower.

Simply put £20 in an envelope (pays for 100 bulbs.)

Label the envelope ‘*Daffodil bulbs to remember xxxxxxx’* and leave at: Style-Line Middlegate, Restore /Op Shop Angel Lane, Greenwheat flowers/café Brunswick Road.

Thank you for your support: Penrith Acton for Community Action (PACT) working with Ullswater Community College, Penrith Community Gardeners & English Heritage.

*Together we can make a difference*