

Preston Cooperative Education Centre

Directors' Meeting

Friday 7th January 2022 at 5.00pm

Present: Andrew Birchall (AB), Mick Mckeown (MM), Janet Newsham (JN), Julian Manley (JM), Cilla Ross (CR), Aniela Bylinski (AnB)

Apologies: Lynn Brooks

1. Greetings for the NY. AnB proposed as Director, agreed unanimously.
2. Minutes of last meeting: approved.
3. Minutes to be taken by JM. Alina not present because works part time Monday to Wednesday. Contract until end of march unless more funds provided.
4. AB explained the financial situation, money in account and money pending from potential bid with PCC.
5. AB working with David Savage on business plan.
6. Lottery bid: JM, MM and CR to make a start on this week after next. No response to enquiry re eligibility.
7. Discussion re possibility of providing course online, easier/cheaper.
8. Importance of ensuring that if we charge for courses, these are still accessible to all. Part of our values/principles.
9. Agreement that it would be a good idea to run some 'tasters' online to get things moving.
10. Important to be pragmatic re costs and finance, and importance of partnerships emphasised, especially educational establishments and Unions.
11. Suggestion that work could be carried forward with SMEs, and perhaps with the Centre for SME Development at UCLan, attempting to maintain independence and autonomy but mutually benefitting from partners too.
12. Links with Cincy and other international partners important, especially since they are also keen to establish such relationships. Possibility of using the website to help make the international connections. Possibility of sharing online courses internationally.
13. Mention of the potential in South Ribble in terms of financial support and possibilities for premises too.
14. Start module sharing with the Cooperative College. CR and JM to follow up meeting with College with specific proposals for delivery.
15. Mention of Union coop event on education on 19th, with AB and JM collaborating, coordinated by Alex Bird.
16. Website. We have a domain name and a template. JM working with Alina to provide a draft site which will be put before the Board before going live.
17. Need for short bio blurb for each Director plus photo, JM to confirm.
18. AB reporting on work/potential collaboration with Chris Davies. Suggestion that one of our 'taster' course could be directed at Chris's community.
19. AnB to be added to What's App group.