

PCEC Minutes Monthly Meeting 21.02.22 (17.00-18.00)

Present: AB, JN, MM, CR, LB, JM

Absent: ABy, DS

Minutes by: JM

Agenda

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

Funding

Business Plan

Course development

International Union Coops

Website and promotion

Finance

AOB

Minutes

1. **Review of Minutes** of last meeting. No objections, Minutes passed.
2. **Funding:** AB & JM, Clarification that the new funding from PCC is not OSF funding, but Power to Change, even though in some respects it is regarded as 'exit funding'. The funding application is still on-going.

The OSF funding is still running, an extension for a further 6 months has been granted. A report has to be submitted in March and JM is arranging to meet the OSF following this report to discuss possible future funding for the PCEC.

JM is trying to arrange a meeting for PCEC Directors with Lankelly Chase, after a positive meeting with one of the principal organisers of that funding pot.

Also in mind for funding are the Lottery fund (JM)

AB and DS continuing to build **Business Plan** to create the basis for a sustainable PCEC set up.

Search for premises, PCC keen that PCEC should be based in Preston, and AB has been looking into the possibility of using community centres. Thanks to LB for 'stirring'! JM made the point that even though we wanted support from local authorities, the PCEC needs to be independent and autonomous (and not dependent on anyone (eg PCC). If premises come about via Chorley, this also needs to be considered. Other possibilities mentioned such as Gujarat Centre (AB) and Guildhall (LB). CR emphasised the importance of going to communities and although a base has its advantages, if you aren't careful it can also become a distraction.

AB doing a lot of travelling to and from Preston on behalf of the PCEC and should claim something back for travel expenses.

3. Course development: JN and CR have developed an introductory course on cooperatives with TU in mind, and it seems to be proving very attractive. Thanks to JN and CR. JM made the point that several 'high ups' from Mondragon have said they will attend, which is a sign that we are on the right track. JM intends to build on this interest with Mondragon.

AB confessed to being the 'secret shopper'...

JM and CR reiterated that they are in conversation with the Cooperative College with regards the START module.

4. International union coops: MM explained his regular contact with Michael Peck and the work to get together a Memorandum of understanding with Coops Cincy and 1Worker1Vote in the USA.

As future development of this relationship, we might need someone with Alina's skills. JM mentioned that Alina's contract funded by OSF comes to an end in March, but that NewsSocial had agreed to fund a further 3 months. Also, NewsSocial is transitioning into a cooperative digital platform to serve the community, as an extension to work already completed and on-going with the Preston Project Committee (prestonmodel.net) JM expressed the hope that this would succeed and support the transAtlantic partnership brokered by the Two Michaels. The Directors are agreed that it would be excellent if funding could be found to pay for Alina's continuing support of the PCEC project.

5. Website and promotion: all very pleased with the website.

The meeting began discussing the idea of stakeholder meetings (LB). All agree that this is a great initiative that should have its own set of meetings. It was decided that the Directors would have a meeting on **7th March at 17.30** to specifically discuss this item and take decisions.

Close.