

PCEC Bi-Monthly Meeting 03.04.23

Present: Julian, Andy, Mick, John

Apologies: Dave, Lynne, Cilla, Janet, Aniela

Meeting Minutes:

1. Sociocracy course with Abbie and partnership with NewsSocial - Julian

- Abbie from Peoples Support sent us several options for sociocracy course. She will give it on behalf of PCEC. And at some stage NewsSocial will be introduced.
- We picked Introduction to the Core Principles of Sociocracy (3x2hr online) - £875 for 20 people (1 facilitator), and £1,295 for 40 people (2 facilitators).
- Ali will come up with the costings to help us break even or even make profit; and a marketing strategy. We will send Ali's business proposal around when it's ready.
- We can get a lot of people from union branches and we can ask them to sponsor a place as well.
- Paul Newsham (CWU) seemed quite interested in sociocracy courses.
- We need to be very clear that we're interested in enhancing cooperative values and principles in other organisations, not only in creating co-ops.

2. Course funding for John - Andy, Dave & John

- Andy and Dave went through PCEC finances and found that there is enough money to sponsor John, as £2,500 from the PCC funding were specifically reserved for training, courses and things of that nature.
- PCDN is covering £500 and PCEC will cover another half.
- John will let Gareth from PCDN know about this.

3. Membership discussion workshop

- *Alina will send a Doodle Poll to arrange the workshop (Friday, 1-4pm, at UCLan).

4. Membership - Julian and Dave

- We can't carry on without members.
- Julian's suggestions:

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- **Full membership:** Worker owners, full voting rights: SUBSCRIPTION: £1 - £10 PER MONTH
 - **Union Committee membership:** Trade Union members (not owners): full voting rights except for voting Board of Directors (unless also worker owners): SUBSCRIPTION: £1 - £5 PER MONTH
 - **Individual associate membership:** Rights to vote strategic motions at the AGM: SUBSCRIPTION: £1-£3 PER MONTH
 - **Organisation associate membership:** As above. One vote per organisation (individuals in the organisation can opt to be individual associate members too): SUBSCRIPTION: £3 - £15 PER MONTH

£1 nominal one off membership fee for all.

All fees (except the one off £1 membership) subject to modification and reduction to £0 according to need.

- We should give people an option to pay monthly or annually.
- We need to give people an incentive to join us (e.g. course discounts to members).

5. Payment to the accountant

- Andy will pay the accountant tomorrow.

6. NewsSocial app updates

- *Alina will ask Ali how to check whether the app has been updated.

7. Update from John Harrison

- John had a discussion with Paul Newsham from CWU - he is interested in political education.
- A lot of their members are working in call centres. He mentioned that there is a gap in cooperative and democratic education the North West.
- John said that the meeting was quite encouraging.
- John tried to speak to Unison, RMT, GMB, but there were no reps to speak to on the spot.
- Mick suggested ringing them in advance to make an appointment.
- We want organisations to take part in developing alternative economies and that has to be communicated clearly.