

PCEC Monthly Meeting 17.02.23

Meeting Minutes:

Present: Lynne Brooks, Julian Manley, Mick Mckeown, Cilla Ross

Apologies: Andy Birchall, Aniela Bylinski-Gelder, Dave Savage

13:44-13:52 Approval of the accounts, arranging a date to sign a physical copy

- Lynn can't sign the accounts because of the nature of her job. We can ask Andy, Aniela, Dave or Mick.
- Alina will print out the contract and arrange a meeting with 3 directors to sign it.
- Board of directors approved the accounts.

13:52-13:56 Voting on VAT cost for NewsSocial app

- Voted - agreed.
- Alina to speak to Andy to proceed with the payment.

13:57-14:04 Obtaining a debit card

- Unity bank doesn't have a card option.
- Mick will find out if we can have a card from the unity card.
- You need to be with the bank for 12 months before you can have a card.
- Find out how long we've been with the bank and request the debit card once the 12 months are reached.

14:04-14:22 Membership renewal

- Voted on renewing membership and joining Worker Co-op Federal - agreed.
- Mick never get the letter from Unity to be able to authorise the payment on the bank.
- Discuss membership renewal and John's payment on Monday (put first on the agenda).
- Are we going to have a standing order to pay John? We might need to put more signatories to make authorisation quicker.

14:22-15:07 Julian on Governance (formal structure, including a Union Committee in our governing structures).

- Julian showed the governance structure.

- 1 director 1 vote.
- Director roles:
 - Secretary (obligatory)
 - Chair: shouldn't be a permanent role, but voted in every time to run the meetings, so they don't become managers
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer (doesn't have to be a director - can be external)
 - Membership officer
 - Union Contact
 - Curriculum officer
 - Business development officer
 - External relations

- Develop relationships outside of England.
- Two aspects of PCEC: 1) Delivering courses on the ground in Preston and Lancashire 2) Online courses
- Union committee instead of social council, consisting of union reps (some from UCU, Baker's Union, etc), that balances out and interacts with board of directors, who have a partner member vote, which is advisory.
- Associate membership (not worker-owner members, or partner members) - friends and interested parties in the work of PCEC; subscribers. Connected to the work of business development officer. They will get the vote that counts in AGM, but not day to day meetings.
- Employees - have no membership and voting rights and they don't have part in the governance.
- We can potentially employ a principle (manager), who would be managing employees and be responsible to the directors.
- We need to set the parameters when the union committee defers to the board of directors and vice versa.
- We need a constitutional recourse if there is a conflict of interests.
- The admin person could be a hybrid between an admin and a manager.
- No employee can be forced to be a member. Someone can decide to be a non-member, unless we decide that we want all employees should be members.
- Cilla thinks we need to solidify the role of director's first before we work on other committees.
- Union branches might have someone with treasurers skills.
- Mick had a meeting with CWU and they are keen on making connections with PCEC, and interested in political education. CWU is adopting support for community wealth building as a national policy and are very much interested in coops as possibilities for post office.
- Mick thinks that Julian's model is an ideal type, something that should be working towards and acknowledges that some of the details can be worked out in the development process as we go along.
- Discuss membership on Monday (How do we want members to contribute to our democracy, and how do we build membership? Membership subscriptions).

15:07-15:30 Q&A with Ali on NewsSocial app

- What are PCEC's plans? How can we make your subscription valuable to you?
- Mick and Cilla think that pop-up notifications are useful.
- The first intention is to get the director's using the app and then get the public to use it.
- Alina helped Lynne to get on the app.

Next Actions:

- Alina will print out the accounts and meet with Andy, David and Mick so that they can sign it.
- Janet will authorise the payment to NewsSocial.
- Solidify the role of directors.