

LANCASTER DISTRICT CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING, 10 MARCH, 2010

Present: Dick Allwright (DA), Joan Allwright (JA), Andrea King (AK), Audrey Harland (AH), Jean Wangermann (JW).

The meeting was chaired by Andrea King.

1. Apologies: Paul Andrews (PA), Graham Bartram (GB), Rob Brown (RB), Gill Goodridge (GG), Karen Heath (KH), Jacky Skinner (JS), Marilyn Tahernia (MT).

2. Agenda Review: Accepted.

3. Minutes of January 18 Business Meeting: Accepted with one amendment (delete Chris, substitute Cliff, in item 8.2).

4. Matters arising or for report only.

4.1 Aldermaston Blockade February 15: Market Square Stall and Quaker vigil. The stall attracted a good number of visitors and secured 3 new memberships. The vigil was a great success, with around 70 people taking part during the twelve hours.

4.2 'No to Trident replacement' campaign petitions and postcards: we have over 500 signatures already and will hope to get more at our International Women's Day stall. The date for submission to national CND is end March. JA/DA had taken e-mail addresses from petition forms and passed the list to AK to identify existing LDCND members (see also 4.4 and 8.1 below). CND nationally had sent the wrong postcards but we will work with what we have. We agreed to contribute £25.00 to the Guardian advertisement appeal. **Action JW**

4.3 Dukes Theatre hire charges: no response yet to e-mail enquiries. **Action JA/DA**

4.4 Website management: in the absence of RB this was not pursued, except to note that an appeal for help was part of a planned letter from Mell Harrison to national CND members in our area.

4.5 Donation of £60.00 to national CND to fund Chris Wood to New York for Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty talks: all done.

5. Correspondence.

5.1 AH reported local MP Geraldine Smith had passed her letters on to the relevant ministries.

5.2 The World Court Project had written asking for an annual membership payment (in lieu of donation). We agreed to £25.00, payable in June or July. **Action JW.**

5.3 Women's Peace Camp information was passed to AH for International Women's Day stall (see 8.6 below).

5.4 Information about a Nuclear Power film night at the Gregson on February 22 had been passed to members.

5.5 Information about a MAW organised Peace History Conference on 16-17 April in London was circulated.

5.6 Information about Action for UN Renewal meetings in London was also circulated.

5.7 Election packs received from national CND were circulated for later discussion (see 8.3 below).

6. Literature received.

6.1 Newsletters from Blackpool and Fylde, Merseyside, and Yorkshire CNDs.

6.2 CAAT News.

6.3 CADU newsletter.

6.4 Nuclear Free Scotland newsletter.

JA drew attention to the interesting joining pages, election pack coverage, and diary items in the Yorkshire and Nuclear Free Scotland newsletters. All will be forwarded to KH as Newsletter Editor.

Action JA.

AK will review our own membership form with a view to possibly redesigning it. **Action AK.**

7. Treasurer's Report. JW reported assets of around £850.00.

8. Matters for discussion and decision.

8.1 Regional Developments. The promised regional meeting had finally taken place on February 26. The new Cumbria and Lancashire Area CND is an 'area' within the northern region, and as such sends one representative to National Council (currently DA).

The draft Constitution had been agreed as a 'working' constitution, subject to review at the first AGM (in 2011).

Each group in the area had agreed to draft a text to send to Mell Harrison for inclusion in a letter from her to all National CND members in each group's geographical district, setting out local priorities and appealing for volunteers. We approved the draft of LDCND's text.

8.2 "No2Heysham3" campaign and HANA (Heysham Anti Nuclear Alliance). DA and RB attended the first HANA organisational meeting. That meeting had agreed HANA should be more than an on-line discussion group, and have a statement of aims it would ask others to endorse, but that HANA should not have an elaborate structure or membership fee system, preferring instead to ask constituent bodies to help fund activities, in the hope of recovering costs through donations at events.

LDCND had booked and agreed to help mount a market stall on Wednesday April 28 to commemorate Chernobyl. HANA will organise a public meeting at the Gregson Institute the same day, with John Whitelegg as speaker.

We agreed to fund 100 copies of the leaflet RB was preparing, subject to an upper limit of £30.00.

The next HANA meeting is set for March 15.

8.3 Five questions for candidates at the general election hustings, and for our Newsletter. We discussed the National CND election pack and agreed to hold a special pre-election business meeting on April 15 to plan our own local campaigning strategy.

8.4 'Reaching the Young'. In PA's absence we deferred discussion to our next meeting.

8.5 Next CND National Council Meeting, March 27-8. DA drew attention to two items in particular.

8.5.1 Proposal to create a post of General Secretary or Executive Director for CND, with Kate Hudson in mind. We agreed to support the proposal, subject to the satisfactory resolution of structural issues.

Action DA.

8.5.2 Kate Hudson's No Trident Replacement campaigning plans. We agreed to support these plans as a good basis for discussion. **Action DA.**

8.6 International Women's Day stall, March 13. Stall equipment and literature had been passed to RB, but it appeared likely that only RB, AH, and KH would be available to run the stall. We agreed to advise RB that if he failed to get adequate support he should not feel obliged to mount the stall.

Action DA, RB.

8.7 Next Newsletter issue. JA agreed to contact KH to help assemble material in advance for a pre-election Newsletter to be distributed as soon as possible after the election date is announced. **Action JA, KH.**

9. AOB: DA and JA reported on an interesting public meeting at Lancaster University on March 8 (part of One World Week at the university, and related to the Global Zero movement), with talks from Paul Ingram and Sir Hugh Beach, on the possibility of a nuclear-free world.

10. Date and chair for next (pre-election special) business meeting: Monday April 15, at 2 Laister Court, Morecambe, from 7.30pm, with AH in the chair.

JA/DA (Joint secretaries)