

**LANCASTER DISTRICT CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING, MARCH 28, 2011**

Present: Dick Allwright (DA), Joan Allwright (JA), Paul Andrews (PA), Graham Bartram (GB), Rob Brown (RB), Audrey Harland (AH), Andrea King (AK), Jacky Skinner (JS) Marilyn Tahernia (MT).

The meeting was chaired by Graham Bartram.

Before the meeting started, Graham Kemp came to the group to explain why, for family reasons, he reluctantly has to resign from the committee.

- 1. Apologies:** Karen Heath (KH), Jean Sadler (JSa). Jean Wangermann (JW)
- 2. Agenda Review:** We agreed to prioritise items 8.1 and 8.2, and defer all else if necessary.
- 3. Minutes:** February 17, 2011 minutes accepted, subject to noting GB had agreed to chair this March meeting.

4. Matters arising or for report only.

4.1 *Menwith Hill pictures on website.* The pictures were not posted, as Cliff Laine had to resign as website manager due to pressure of other commitments (see also 8.5 below).

4.2 *Feedback to Lindis Percy, with uncashed £50 donation to CAAB.* This matter is now resolved, with a new cheque to an alternative address. Lindis was very grateful for our feedback.

4.3 *Communication monitoring.* Barbara Fairbairn is willing to help ensure we do not miss important correspondence re campaigning opportunities, but needs us to explain in more detail what this involves. **Action JA**

4.4 *Screening of Into Eternity at the Dukes.* DA, JA, RB reported an impressively disturbing film about nuclear waste disposal plans in Finland, with good post film discussion, and drew attention to forthcoming events in the Transition City series at the Dukes. We took, as planned, CNDUK nuclear power information sheets.

4.5 *Report of International Women's Day.* AK, JA reported a productive stall event, with 7 volunteers distributing Ban Ki-moon's UN message, collecting anti-Trident petition signatures and using the dot chart to plot people's spending priorities on women's services if Trident were cancelled. DA/JA summarised and circulated the results but sadly have not yet found the time to report them to Eric Ollerenshaw MP as intended.

4.6 *Report of Cumbria and Lancashire Area CND AGM.* DA reported the creation of the new office of Area Coordinator (accepted by David Penney of East Lancashire CND), reflecting the view that the Area tends to coordinate separate group activities rather than mount joint group activities. The Area proposes to prepare a resolution for the CNDUK AGM on nuclear waste disposal in Cumbria. **Action DA**

4.7 *Report of January National Council Meeting.* Irene Sanderson (North Cumbria CND) attended for DA and reported that future Council Quarterly meetings would be one-day only affairs, and that the 2011 National Conference and AGM would take place in Bradford on October 15, with visits to nearby US missile defence bases planned for October 16.

4.8 *Appointment of Examiner of accounts.* AK reported that Andrew King had agreed to accept this role.

4.9 *Update on banking arrangements.* We agreed to substitute AK for DA as signatory. **Action JW, AK**

JA, AK (with JW in absentia) reported the Lloyd's TSB recommendation that we should merge our current and deposit accounts. After considerable discussion of the possibility of transferring to an alternative bank altogether, given our distrust of Lloyds TSB to manage our affairs satisfactorily, we decided to defer a decision until JW could be present. In the meantime, PA will contact JW to explain how the Cooperative Bank might provide a satisfactory alternative. **Action PA**

4.10 *London anti-cuts demonstration, March 26.* DA, JA, AH, and JS reported their very positive experiences of the event, and circulated pictures of the Westminster Underground Station CND anti-Trident billboard, to which several LDCND members had contributed.

5. Correspondence.

To save time for discussion of Chernobyl Day, DA reported numerous e-mail messages very briefly. We agreed DA should continue to forward messages to committee members very selectively. We agreed to put on our website a text on 'Minimal Demands re Nuclear new build'.

Action DA

6. Literature received.

6.1 Merseyside CND Newsletter.

7. Officers' Reports: Treasurer JW reported (in absentia) assets of over £1100.00.

8. Matters for discussion and decision.

8.1 and 8.2 *Plans for Chernobyl Day.* DA, JA and RB reported a very positive meeting in Manchester, called by Greater Manchester and District CND, to coordinate plans for a variety of actions across the north west, which produced the decision to focus on the Lancaster area as a suitable site for these actions, rather than on the otherwise even more worrying sites in Cumbria, because of the close proximity of a considerable population to Heysham's two nuclear reactors. Greater Manchester people agreed they would travel to Lancaster to participate, and would wait to see what we planned before deciding what their contribution could best be.

After considerable discussion we agreed to pursue 4 ideas:

1. *A commemorative vigil, with 25 candles, on the evening of April 26.*

GB agreed to explore the possibility of a vigil at Lancaster Friends Meeting House, and to ask Barbara Fairbairn and Rachel Malloch for help in mounting a concert in association with it.

AH agreed to ask Celia Briar if she would perform at such a concert.

We also agreed to approach Mo Kelly about helping with the vigil.

And to approach David Low to help us invite local organisers of the Chernobyl Children's Project and host families to participate in the vigil.

We also agreed to explore the possibility of mounting an informative display at the Friends Meeting House about Chernobyl (and perhaps Fukushima). **Action GB, AH**

2. *A market stall on April 26, to focus on alternatives to nuclear energy, and perhaps to carry some information about Chernobyl (and perhaps Fukushima).*

RB agreed to raise the issue with HANA and pursue the connection with Transition City, with a view to HANA and Transition City perhaps taking overall responsibility for the stall (borrowing LDCND's gazebo). AH agreed to book the Market Square for Tuesday April 26, from 2-6pm, to 'commemorate Chernobyl and propose alternative sources of energy'. **Action RB, AH**

3. *Action to draw attention to the dangers of the passage of 'nuclear trains' through Lancaster.* PA agreed to pursue possibilities for this theme, including locating suitable places for banners and other displays. **Action PA, JS**

4. *Action to draw attention to the 'exclusion/evacuation zone' implications for Heysham's Nuclear Power installations.* We discussed this theme but decided we were unlikely to be able to find enough volunteers locally to mount such action ourselves. We therefore decided to

propose this as a possibility for people from Greater Manchester CND and their associates.

Action DA to inform GMD CND

We agreed a final planning meeting on Sunday, April 17, from 6pm, at 13 East Road Lancaster.

8.3 *Anti-Trident petition and Westminster billboard appeal.* We collected more signatures on International Women's Day and several members contributed to the billboard appeal (see 4.10).

8.4 *Reaching the Young.* PA reported progress with plans to mount a further schools event with Anna Liddle and Bruce Kent in October 2011. He agreed to coordinate with David Penney of East Lancashire CND, who have similar peace education plans for 2011. **Action PA**

8.5 *New Anti-Trident petition and Westminster Billboard Appeal.* We collected signatures on International Women's Day and several members contributed to the Westminster billboard appeal (see also 4.10 above).

8.6 *Website management arrangements.* We now have a new (cheaper) host for our website. In the absence of a website manager, KH and JA have agreed to learn (with RB's help) how to maintain the site, using the free editing software recommended by RB. **Action JA, KH, DA**

We agreed a vote of thanks to RB for all his work on the website.

8.7 *Possible screening of "Beating the Bomb".* We agreed to let this item drop until further notice.

8.8 *Newsletter Distribution reorganisation.* GB and AK reported their reorganisation has, largely by eliminating duplication, reduced the number of newsletters to be printed from 180 to about 150.

We agreed a vote of thanks to them for their work on this.

8.9 *Next Newsletter issue.* In the absence of firm and specific plans (see 8.1,2 above) we agreed to ask KH to produce a brief newsletter by the end of the second week of April, to carry a 'watch this space' announcement re forthcoming arrangements for Chernobyl Day. **Action KH**

9. AOB: We agreed to book a stall for our commemoration of Hiroshima/Nagasaki for August 6, 1-4pm. **Action AH**

10. *Date and chair for next business meeting:* Tuesday, July 19, 2011, from 7.30pm, at 2 Laister Court, Bare Lane, Morecambe. Andrea King agreed to act as chair.

Dick and Joan Allwright, Joint Secretaries