

SLACC-tt AGM 2022

Date: 26 April 2022

Venue: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees

Trustees

Carole Wood (Chair) Sally Fleming, Angela Lovett, Quentin Merritt, Duncan Pollard, Chris Rowley

Other members

Henry Adams, Janet Antrobus, Giles Archibald, Robin Bailey, Lenka Bruncliova WiW, Nick Chetwood, Janet Clarke, Paul Girling WiW, Jan Goodey WiW, Jo Haughton, Liz Hendry, Janet Hodgson WiW, Anne Hoe WiW, Angela Lovett, Alan Lovett, Wendi Lethbridge, Alan Maher, Maggie Mason, Quentin Merritt, Karen Mitchell, Hilary Pickup, Dave Plumb, Duncan Pollard, Daniel Rayson WiW, Sylvia Robertson, Chris Rowley WiW, Janice Rowley, Craig Russel, Anne-Marie Sanderson, Sue Whalley, Brian Woodward, Carole Wood, Paul Woods

Non-members

Mavis Aitchison (WiW) David Beuzeval,(WiW)

Apologies

Jo Magne, Lisa Kenton, Paul Casson, Susan Reynolds

1) Welcome

- a. Carole welcomed everyone. She explained that our charity status requires us to hold an AGM and submit an annual report, including accounts. She thanked supporters for attending and introduced the agenda.

2) Minutes of 2021 AGM

- The minutes of the 2021 AGM were circulated prior to the meeting.
- The minutes themselves were shared onscreen at the AGM.
- A vote was held on whether to accept the 2021 minutes as an accurate record. 81% of respondents voted yes, with 19% abstaining. The minutes were therefore accepted.

3) Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- The record of trustees had been updated for the Charity Commission (this was an action to be done in the minutes.)

4) Annual Report and Accounts

- **Activity:** Carole reported that:

- Robin Cope is standing down from both the treasurer post and from the trustees. She thanked Robin for his service over many years and welcomed his intention to continue to be involved with SLACC.
- Membership has increased from 77 last year to 94 this year. Carole thanked Lisa Kenton for her very valuable work in this area.
- In accordance with our policy, we have concentrated on two main campaigns this year: Waste into Wellbeing and opposition to the proposed Cumbria coalmine.

- **Accounts:**

Full accounts had been posted on the web site before the meeting, as part of the annual report. Chris presented a brief summary of the annual accounts. He noted that income for Waste into Wellbeing was £31,870, and expenditure was £29,262. For the coal mine campaign, income was £147,415 (plus the sum raised by crowdfunding, which went directly to the legal team and not through SLACC's accounts) and expenditure was £143,415. Because of the large sums involved, and at the suggestion of a major funder, an independent accountant had reviewed the figures. The decision had been made to use 'Quickbooks' accounting software. The small surplus, together with funds carried over from previous years, means we have £15,600 available. The annual report also lists our assets and notes the social benefits of our activities and the budget for the coming year. A member asked whether a reminder about annual payment could be sent. It was explained that this would involve considerable work at present, because membership can start during any month of the year. It was agreed that the trustees would look again at this.

Action: Trustees to consider the issue of sending reminders to members about subscription payments.

There was a vote on whether to accept the accounts. 86% voted yes, with 14% abstaining, so the accounts were accepted.

- **Waste into Wellbeing:** Duncan:

- Presented some headline figures: 15,000 kg of surplus food has been redistributed, (up from 5,041 kg last year). 630 Lunch Bunch meals have been made, community food groups have been supported, food share outlets have increased from 2-3 weekly and the People's Café has re-started. 1400 volunteer hours have been contributed and there have been 500 co-ordinator hours.
- Thanked the various WiW funders, both local and national, both organisations and individuals, and the volunteers who are central to it all.
- Requested that if any member has expertise with communications and is willing to support us on communications to please contact us.

- Outlined plans for WiW in 2022:
 - i. We are currently trialling smaller more frequent food shares
 - ii. We would like another pantry style outlet, possibly at Hallgarth if we can negotiate a site.
 - iii. We are committed to stay in Stricklandgate House till September, but after that would like to find a premises in town which would enable us to run the café alongside food-shares plus work with the Town Council on promoting Climate Jury recommendations
 - iv. We are hiring a part time logistics coordinator to help sourcing food and maintaining oversight of stocks
 - v. We are hoping for funding from SUSTAIN to enable us to work with selected supermarkets to reduce waste
 - Chris added notice of a online meeting which includes a case study of setting up a Climate Emergency Hub
- **Coalmine:** Maggie:

- Thanked all those who had helped to fund the SLACC campaign, or supported it in other ways, with especial thanks to Henry Adams for his research
- Noted that the public inquiry ran from 7th September to 1st October 2021
- Noted that SLACC and Friends of the Earth were the only 'Rule 6' Parties, so a Main Party alongside the applicant and local planning authority. We were able to cross examine other parties
- Offered a summary of the case against the coal mine: mine would add to the climate emergency; would undermine UK's ability to meet climate targets; coal is not suitable for steel making; steel industry is now moving rapidly away from reliance upon coal so mine is not needed
- Quoted a senior spokesperson for the steel industry emphasizing that the industry does not want a new mine
- Noted that Michael Gove had undertaken to make a decision on whether to allow the mine (he is not bound by the recommendation of the planning inspector) by July 7th
- Told us that a possible response to a decision to allow the mine would be to apply for a judicial review. This can only be done using technical grounds. If the decision goes against us, we will ask our legal team to review the evidence to see if there are grounds for the review. Such a review would cost £40,000 to £50,000
- Suggested people refer to the SLACC website for further details, including information on how to support the campaign (including financially)
- Offered a link to an article by Becky Willis [A new coal mine in Cumbria makes no sense for the climate – or Britain's energy security \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/a-new-coal-mine-in-cumbria-makes-no-sense-for-the-climate-or-Britain's-energy-security-181973) or

<https://theconversation.com/a-new-coal-mine-in-cumbria-makes-no-sense-for-the-climate-or-britains-energy-security-181973>

- **Review of targets for 2020-21:**

Carole summarised the progress (text in green) we had made against the targets we set for 2021-22:

- 1) To develop Waste into Wellbeing in accordance with the operational plan, specifically:
 - To understand the 'market' better by developing a user group
 - To manage volunteers more smoothly
 - To continue to collaborate with other groups and look for possible partnerships to find suitable premises
 - *All achieved*
- 2) To continue with the Coal Mine campaign
 - *progress reported above*
- 3) To contribute to developing some of the recommendations from the Citizens' Jury
 - *separate proposals in annual report, and detailed below*
- 4) To stay in touch with the composting project, and support this as far as possible
 - *This is now in the hands of town and county councils who are instituting a small local scheme but inform us that bigger changes across Cumbria are planned*
- 5) To continue to liaise and co-operate with groups with similar aims, such as Cumbria Sustainability Network and Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAFS)
 - *We have undertaken discussions with a number of local groups in the process of looking at how we re-focus our future activities.*
- 6) To support talks on matters of interest, within SLACC and beyond, as a response to COP 26
 - *To some extent this has been picked up by the zero carbon Cumbria project through its local sustainability network on which we are represented. We have recently spoken with members of the RSA (Royal Society of Arts) and with other local groups.*
- 7) To continue to produce regular newsletters and maintain our website
 - *We have produced newsletter throughout the year but would like them to be more frequent. More support is needed to do this*
- 8) To continue to increase membership, to a point where membership income covers core SLACC running costs
 - *As reported previously membership has increased to 94*
- 9) To strengthen our internal governance by continuing policy review, with immediate priorities of addressing equality and diversity issues and developing a reserves policy.
 - *Achieved*
- 10) To look again at our constitution, in particular to consider the nomination and rotation of trustees
 - *Revised constitution proposed at this meeting*

Targets for 2022-3

Carole presented the targets we have set for 2022-3:

- Propose a future direction and priorities for SLACC-*tt* based upon the review process currently underway.
- Roll out awareness and understanding of new policies (health & safety, equality & diversity, code of conduct, environment)
- Increase the participation of members and volunteers in our work.
- Continue our campaign against the Cumbria Coalmine. Be prepared to launch a judicial review based upon the decision of Michael Gove.
- Continue to develop Waste into Wellbeing and Kendal People's Café. Grow the collection of food from local businesses and explore ways to distribute this across the town and surrounding villages to deliver impact in the local community. Develop a stronger complementary focus on reducing food waste.
- Work with Kendal Town Council and local organisations to monitor progress of the response to the recommendations of the Citizens Climate Jury.

Duncan added Proposed responses to the Kendal Citizens' Jury recommendations:

Food Waste:

SLACC proposing a wider approach to reducing food waste. This will involve:

- establishing an understanding of food waste across Kendal
- promoting action by supermarkets, wholesalers and hospitality sectors
- reporting and benchmarking against other towns
- Calculation of greenhouse gas emissions reduced.

Recommendations Panel:

SLACC represented and contributing to oversight of delivery of other recommendations

A vote was taken on whether to accept these objectives, with 100% in favour

5) Constitution review

Carole outlined some proposed changes:

- Objects – no change
- Aims- updated as follows (changes in red)

The Charity's objects (the Objects) are

- 1) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
 - 2) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.
- In furtherance to these objects, SLACC's aims are to:
 - 1) To increase a local awareness of local and global issues surrounding climate change **and sustainability.**
 - 2) To reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.
 - 3) To **support a just transition to net zero in the local area**
 - 4) To take every reasonable step to minimise the greenhouse gas emissions and **other negative environmental and social impacts** resulting from the groups' activities.
 - 5) **Promote equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our activities**
 - Membership fees- unchanged, but added provision for flexible donations
 - Provision made for electronic means of holding meetings, communication and holding records
 - Changes to section 17 Appointment of Trustees, such that
 - 1) potential trustees will be voted upon individually by members at the AGM
 - 2) They will serve for up to 3 years, and may stand for re-election after this
 - 3) One third of the trustees will stand down at each AGM

A vote was held on accepting the revised constitution. 96% were in favour, with 4% abstaining. The revised constitution was therefore adopted.

Action: Trustees to endorse revised constitution and post it on the web site

- A member proposed an additional specific aim:

To continue to stop new fossil fuel projects (from extraction to combustion)

Action: Trustees to consider

6) Election of Trustees and post holders

- Carole explained that Alan Lovett was willing to stand as a trustee, with a view to taking on the treasurer role, and invited him to introduce himself, which he did.
- Carole invited SLACC members to vote on the election of each potential trustee, individually.
- Results were that all those proposed were elected (Sally Fleming; Angela Lovett; Alan Lovett; Quentin Merritt; Duncan Pollard; Chris Rowley; Carole Wood).

7) A.O.B.

- None

8) Close

- Carole thanked all present for attending and closed the formal part of the AGM

9) Future directions

Carole then invited Quentin to speak on possible future developments. He reported that the trustees had initiated consultation in December 2021 to help decide how to focus our future activities

- Members were invited to comment SLACC-tt “Next Steps” paper (what, where, how)
- Trustees held conversations with a range of stakeholders
 - a. Issues that emerged were:
 - b. SLACC’s brand and reputation is strong
 - c. Flexibility of remit: lobbying campaigns, alongside practical delivery
 - d. Potential for greater partnership working and membership engagement
 - e. Variety of views re climate change/biodiversity/sustainability, but our objectives and aims do allow for a broad scope
 - f. Geographical focus needs further consideration

Quentin then noted that conversation will be ongoing in spring/early summer 2022, and that the next step was to involve members and gauge their reactions and ideas for proceeding. Members comments indicated support for such a meeting

Action: Trustees to convene an online members’ meeting for this purpose

10) Discussion groups

Attendees then moved into one of two breakout rooms and were invited to comment via the chat box.

- 1 Jo Houghton gave a presentation on a cargo bike project. Jo offered to post this on the web site for wider viewing
- 2 Helen Moriarty offered an update on progress on the recommendations of the Kendal Citizens' Jury on Climate Change

Action: Trustees to convene a members' meeting on the coal mine campaign

Carole thanked the speakers and everyone for taking part in the AGM and closed the meeting.