

# MINUTES OF PECT COMPANY MEMBERS' MEETING

Held on Thursday, 13 September 2007

At the Green House, 4-6 Cowgate, Peterborough



6.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Ken McKay (Chair), Helen Austin, Nigel Brigham, Charles Clay, Ian Hall, Mike Lamport, Steve Magenis, Jon Parsons, Richard Paten, Keith Stapleford, Jane Stubbs

**In attendance:** Hugh Cripps, Sharon Dawson (minuting), Rachel Huxley,

## 1 Apologies

Vincent Brierley, Don Chiswell, Matthew Clements, Chris Gerrard, Gareth Heatley, Mike Holland, Kevin Orme, Alastair Stirling, John Tate

## 2 Minutes of the Previous meeting (Wednesday 16 May 2007)

### 2.1 Matters arising

5.1.8 Food Waste Collection –

It was considered that this would probably not be a cost effective business for PECT. HC to check with TG whether PCC is introducing a food waste collection scheme.

HC

2.2 The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

## 3 Chief Executive's Quarterly Report

3.1 *In confidence*

3.2 **Eastex** – a business plan is being produced and the project is waiting for funding.

3.3 **BeMS** – HC did not give details as RH was presenting the BeMS Business Plan as a separate agenda item.

3.4 **Seeding Sustainable Communities** – Core funding finishes March 2008. This has been a very successful project and has met all its targets. GO East is very keen on the project. SSC works with new homes in the Hamptons and Sugar Way. There is scope to roll it out to existing homes. PECT is looking at multiple funding streams.

3.5 **PECT Consultancy Ltd (PCL)** – PCL is the trading arm of PECT. Its energy scheme works with Registered Social Landlords, switching void properties to a preferred energy supplier. The scheme is rolling out well and is looking to make enough profit to gift aid PECT.

PCL is also offering Energy Performance Certificates from around October 2007.

3.6 **Green Schools** – this small scale project is testing a new website on which teachers will be able to find out what's available to them in terms of environmental information.

### 3.7 Future Projects

**International Eco-Construction Project.** This is an EU funded partnership project worth 9.75 million euros to develop an environmental construction products exhibition / website and training facility. Currently PECT is looking for European partners.

### 3.8 Regional Parcs

Another EU Interreg project looking at the requirements of urban fringe parks. The River Nene Regional Park is one of the partners involved along with areas in Holland, Germany and Scotland.

- 3.9 **Greenenergyswitch.com** - PECT has received funding from Norwich & Peterborough BS to set up a green energy switch website. PECT is currently recruiting and hopefully a member of staff will be in place around the beginning of October to start work on the project.
- 3.10 **Energy For Business** – This project is out of our hands at the moment as we are hoping that EEDA can find the money to fund it.
- 3.11 **Investors in the Environment** (Peterborough based). PECT is waiting to hear if GPP will take it as part of the Environment Capital Manifesto

#### 4 **Environment Capital Manifesto**

KMcK presented his paper and apologised that the paper circulated with the agenda was now out of date because it had been revised. KMCK explained that Peterborough's original Community Strategy had the Environment Capital aim as a big goal outside the key visions. However a Community Strategy refresh is going before the GPP Board on 26 September. This new Strategy will have as one of its four new priorities 'Creating the UK's environment capital [an exemplar environment city]. A discussion followed as to whether Members thought it was seriously possible for Peterborough to be recognised as the UK's Environment Capital. The members felt:

- That it was possible but that it was down to the people of Peterborough as well the Council to instigate changes.
- PECT should be more active in community-based projects.
- KMCK would like to see PECT getting a budget so that we can be the driving force behind the initiative.
- Some other city will claim it if we don't.

HC stated that the six outlying principles of the manifesto will be circulated to organisations with a feedback form so that they can say what they can do to help reach the targets.

#### 5 **BeMS Business Planning**

RH gave an update on the BeMS Business Plan. Feedback from a marketing survey had gone to the Steering Group. The Business Plan will go to the PECT Board on 26 September. Subject to Board approval BeMS will be ready to launch the new business plan from 1 April 2008 although the action plan can be launched immediately. The objective is to make BeMS self sustainable and looking to make a profit, and not be dependent on grant funding.

#### 6 **Should PECT lobby as well as campaign?**

SM led a discussion on the above topic. He explained that the issue had been the subject of a Board paper in May 2005 and as a result PECT had drawn up its Campaigning and Advocacy policy, a copy of which SM circulated to those present. The policy stated that generally PECT does not adopt a campaigning stance, but will respond to major matters of Environment City concern taking into account the policy guidelines.

It was noted that PECT encourages growth in membership but we don't want membership to be a means for a group or an individual to use PECT as a vehicle for their campaign. The members agreed that it would be acceptable for PECT to voice an objection as this is different from campaigning against something. RP felt that the word 'Generally' enables PECT to choose to campaign in a time of crisis if it felt there was real cause for concern. Add 'in an appropriate manner' to the conclusion.

Reference to the ESG needs to be changed to read 'Board'.

It was agreed to bring the guidelines up-to-date and circulate the new policy to Company Members.

SD

**7 Any Other Business**

7.1 JP will circulate details to PECT regarding Tree Planting Days at George Henry Wood Schools run by the Woodland Trust.

JP

7.2 North Westgate Development – NB pointed out that this was at a crucial consultation stages and we should be aware of what's going on. HC to find out timescales and to see if we can get a developer to a Members' meeting.

HC

7.3 HC confirmed to RP that PECT is not responsible for the maintenance of the Green Wheel – this is with PCC. RP circulated information regarding Railworld projects.

7.4 KMCK informed members that, as seen on the PECT website, PECT has a new Marketing and Communications Officer, Nyree Ambarchian. He also stated that the website, managed by SD, was worth looking at for information.

**8 Date of next meeting**

Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 28 November 2007 (Date and venue to follow).