

**LANCASTER DISTRICT CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, 27th September, 2012**  
**In the Friends Meeting House, Lancaster**

**MINUTES**

**A. Andrew Gibson's talk: Drones, robots, and the 'Playstation' mentality.**

A disappointingly small audience of around a dozen people were present for Karen Heath to introduce Andrew Gibson, member of Leicester CND, and a Coordinator of the Drone Campaign Network. He was keen to be informative rather than persuasive, telling us he was not himself convinced that opposition to drone warfare was necessarily an appropriate priority for CND campaigning efforts, but he was certain that the situation regarding drone warfare needed very careful monitoring, and that the current level of official secrecy about the UK's use and development of drones was totally unacceptable (he noted the Drone Warfare Network's current petition to the Prime Minister to remove the secrecy). He described very interestingly the extremely wide range of 'piloted' or autonomous devices currently in use in both military and non-military spheres, in the air, on land, and on sea. He illustrated their potential usefulness and some of their dangers with details of specific incidents (eg in relation to Sadr City in Iraq).

There was very little time for general discussion, but several people mentioned they would like further consideration of the ethical and psychological issues arising in drone warfare. This is something we can address at a future meeting.

After a brief pause for refreshments we proceeded to the business part of our AGM.

**B. AGM Business Meeting**

The AGM and public meeting were both chaired by Graham Bartram.

**Committee Members Present:**

Dick Allwright (DA)	Joint Secretary
Joan Allwright (JA)	Joint Secretary
Paul Andrews (PA)	Education Officer
Graham Bartram (GB)	Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
Karen Heath (KH)	Newsletter Editor
Marilyn Tahernia (MT)	Member
Jean Wangermann (JW)	Treasurer

**1. Apologies:** Audrey Harland; Former Press Officer (AH); and Andrea King (AK), Membership Secretary.

**2. The Minutes of the last AGM:** accepted as accurate.

**3. Matters arising:**

Lacking time, we accepted that any matters arising would be dealt with under other items below.

**4. Reports.**

**4.1 Joint Secretaries.** The secretaries' report, as in 2011, took the form of a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the year's campaigning, fund-raising and other activities. A summary activity report in writing is attached to these minutes (see also the LDCND website). A full written report will follow.

**4.2 Treasurer.** JW reported that there was a very small deficit of £14.87 on the year, with continuing assets still above £1000.00, at £1086.45. Special thanks are again due to Andrew King who as Inspector of Accounts very kindly assisted with the preparation of the summary presented to the AGM.

**4.3 Membership.** AK (in absentia) reported that membership remains steady, with the Newsletter going to 130 families and 15 organisations.

**4.4 Education Officer.** PA reported that following the success of the workshop with Bruce Kent and a group of local sixth-formers in February 2012 he is planning for a similar event in 2012-13.

**4.5 Newsletter Editor:** KH reported that, after more than ten years in the post, she was now standing down as Newsletter Editor. She then set out in detail the possible functions a newsletter might serve, and the challenges such newsletters face, in particular the problem of properly reflecting local issues, rather than just taking them from the national organisation. (Full report appended.)  
The Chair called for a formal vote of thanks to KH for her extremely important contribution to Lancaster District CND. A presentation of flowers was also made to her in gratitude.

KH suggested that this was a time to go back to first principles and ask ourselves what sort of newsletter we wanted and why. We agreed that the next Business Meeting should discuss the future of our Newsletter.

#### **5. Campaigning priorities for 2012-13.**

Our 2011-12 priorities will be reviewed at our next Business Meeting. We do not anticipate any major changes, but will discuss the possible inclusion of drone warfare as a further campaigning issue. Currently the main headings are:

- Stopping Trident.
- Reaching the Young.
- Opposing Missile Defence and US bases in England.
- Broadening our campaigning base.
- Opposing nuclear power.

#### **6. Elections.**

There was one resignation to register, of KH as Newsletter Editor (as noted above). We therefore have a vacancy for Newsletter Editor. (KH agreed, however, to remain on the Committee.) The Press Officer position was still vacant, and one Member position was still unfilled. All other current members had agreed to stand for re-election. There being no nominations for any of the positions the 2012-13 committee will therefore be:

Dick Allwright	Joint Secretary
Joan Allwright	Joint Secretary
Paul Andrews	Education Officer
Graham Bartram	Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
Barbara Fairbairn	Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
Gill Goodridge	Member
Karen Heath	Member
Andrea King	Membership Secretary
Marilyn Tahernia	Member
Jean Wangermann	Treasurer

In the absence of a Webmaster the Secretaries still have responsibility for maintaining the LDCND website. This is a daunting challenge, but we are hopeful of further support from Han (responsible for the local Green Party and Incredible Edibles websites), who has agreed to consider looking after the site for us.

#### **7. Date of 2013 AGM and next Business Meeting.**

The 2013 AGM was set for Wednesday, September 25th.

The next Business Meeting has been set for Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 13 East Road, Lancaster, from 7.30pm.

Andrea King has kindly agreed to chair the meeting.

The meeting will focus on preparing for our stall at the Green Christmas Fair on November 24<sup>th</sup>. All producers of marketable produce (jams, fudge, cakes, etc) please make every effort to attend.

NB: Heartfelt thanks to KH for introducing the speaker and to GB for chairing the evening. Thanks also to JW for her meticulous account-keeping, and to AK for looking after membership matters. Special thanks to Han for the major help he has already provided for the website.

Dick and Joan Allwright, Joint Secretaries, October 6th, 2012.