

November 2004

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CENSORSHIP

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.45, Thursday, 18th November, 2004, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

Present: Ted Goodman (Chair), Nigel Meek, Basil Stein, Mark Taha, Mary Hayward, Brian Seager as an observer.

1. There were no apologies for absence.
2. The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed as correct.
3. Matters arising from the Minutes:

- i. The SFC had produced a response to the Home Office report on prostitution. CAC's draft response was circulated. Comments to Mary Hayward asap please - deadline 26th November.

- ii. Nigel Meek had prepared a dummy newsletter and asked for material for a real one. Agreed texts of responses like that in i. above to be included.

4. Chairman's report

- i. Ted Goodman compiled CAC's comments on the draft Ofcom broadcasting code.

- ii. He attended the SFC AGM in June. One of the speakers was Paul Tavener of Ofwatch (admin @ ofwatch.org.uk).

5. Members' reports

Basil Stein warned that the Campaign would need to watch anti-terrorism measures for free speech implications.

Mark Taha said that he would keep the cuttings and letters coming.

6. Webmaster's report

Some CAC briefings have been added to the site and can be downloaded.

Submissions to official bodies should go on the site, after they have been sent to the body concerned. (Send as a 'word' file).

Details of other organisations to be added to the list of links to be submitted to Council for approval and passed on.

7. Secretary's report

Nothing to add to matters covered elsewhere.

8. BBC Charter renewal

There was a communications breakdown - Mary Hayward and Ted Goodman each thought the other was working on it and the deadline was missed. The Green Paper should give us another opportunity.

PTO

9. Ofcom review of public service broadcasting

The consultation exercise took the form of 16 questions which were discussed at the meeting. The agreed answers to form CAC's reply and be posted on the website.

10. Balances and funding

i. Balances

HSBC - £589.37p

Alliance and Leicester - £123.69p

Abbey - £4694.55p

Signatories for these accounts to be Ted Goodman, Mary Hayward and Mark Taha (Abbey requires 2 of 3).

ii. Changes to accounts

Mary Hayward reported:

HSBC - advisor at her local branch said switching to a 'clubs, societies and charities' account would not be a big problem. Switch first, then change signatories.

Alliance and Leicester are security-conscious and may want a lot of ID.

Abbey - permission to make enquiries? - given.

iii. Agreed reserves (Abbey account) may be used to fund a newsletter. Suggested print run 500.

ii. Any other business

Mark Taha said the Organised Crime Bill may include clauses banning permanent demonstrations and use of megaphones in Parliament Square. This may be aimed at one anti-war protester who has a permanent 'pitch'.

12. Date of next meeting - not fixed