

Minutes for ACCU Committee meeting

18th November 2017, via Hangouts

Meeting started at 14:30.

1. Attending

Jim Hague, Matthew Jones, Nigel Lester, Ralph McArdell, Malcolm Noyes, Roger Orr, Robert Pauer, Bob Schmidt

Apologies for absence

None

2. Minutes from last meetings

The committee approved the minutes of the meeting on 23rd September.

3. Actions in progress from previous meeting

Actions from previous meetings:

68. *Asti has asked to pass on book reviews to someone else. Malcolm has a volunteer and has finally been able to contact Asti.*

Not sure what is happening with this as contact seems to have been lost...Ongoing.

74. *Bob - Draft procedure for violations of Code of Conduct/Diversity Statement created.* Ralph commented that it may be difficult for local group organisers to deal with complaints and perhaps the detail needed revising; Bob will review and revise as necessary. Bob will look at Bibliography and changes for next meeting. Ongoing.

93. *Nigel to write some notes on affiliations with other groups.* Nigel intends to speak to Phil Nash. Ongoing.

95. Nigel will email local groups asking them to advertise the requirement for a web editor. Currently takes Bob 4-5 hours per issue.

~~97. Roger to speak to Steve & Fran about whether a submission/diff system for submitting articles might be useful.~~ Steve & Fran do not think it would be useful at present due the number of different formats; will consider again if things change. Done.

Actions added by this meeting:

98. Roger to check Jonathan Wakely was still happy to carry on as Standards officer.

4. Reports

4.1 Advertising

No report.

4.2 Conference

Report from Roger Orr:

Submission deadline passed; submissions are up on last year. Conference committee will meet before end of year to consider proposals.

ACCU meeting proposed for lunchtime on Friday, possibly with food in room to encourage attendees.

4.3 Local Groups

Report from Nigel Lester:

Since the last committee meeting the local group Meetup membership has grown by 4.5% to 4.8k. This is a year on year increase of nearly 40%. In particular it has been really great to see Bristol growing strongly through the autumn talk season with 20% growth and with London passing another "milestone" of 600 to 609.

Groups asked if they have any requests etc. for the Committee. None received.

Also asked the groups to promote submitting proposals to the ACCU 2018 conference and consider saving some Q1 2018 talk slots for conference dry runs. For Oxford I did this via posting to those Meetup members who were happy to receive organizer emails and via twitter.

The groups have been very active but as we come to the end of the autumn term there are few talks announced. In Oxford's case I need to start another round of talks planning. I plan to send a call for talks out, but have been leaving this till after the conference proposal deadline so as not to dilute the message.

An Oxford upcoming highlight is Professor Bjarne Stroustrup giving the Strachey Lecture on 21st Nov before he travels to Cambridge Uni to give a lecture there the next day. I have 100 copies of Overload to give away at the Strachey lecture which I understand is oversubscribed (theater size is 210).

4.4 Membership

Report from Matt Jones:

Nothing to report this time - things are running smoothly.

Ignoring the August/September blip due to standing order renewals, membership numbers remain pretty much the same

4.5 Treasurer

Report from Robert Pauer:

Payment has been made to Walter Brown from ISDF fund.

Nothing else unusual to report

4.6 Publicity

No report (no publicity officer)

4.7 Standards

No report.

Roger to check Jonathan Wakely was still happy to carry on as Standards officer.

4.8 Website

Report from Jim Hague:

All seems to be working fine with the website and mailing lists. Now the conference submission date is past I am planning on upgrading our server to the latest Debian stable, Stretch. At present it looks like I will attempt this next Sunday, the 26th. I have already done this update on my personal server which has a similar setup without issues, so at this stage I expect service interruption to be no more than a few minutes.

Report from Martin Moene:

Kudos for Bob's work on the website!

4.9 Mentored developers

No report.

4.10 Social Media

No report.

4.11 Publications

Report from Roger Orr:

New reviewers have been appointed for Overload. The committee agreed that non-members could be reviewers but that if there was a surplus of equivalent volunteers then members should probably be preferred. The editors have the final decision.

5. Any other business

5.1 Legal status of Association

Following the decision by PyConUK to change their legal structure to avoid liabilities, the committee discussed whether the current legal status of ACCU was still appropriate. It is believed that since the ACCU is an Association it has no legal status and is therefore unable to enter into contracts (we know because we have difficulty setting up things with companies). However we may have obligations for the production of the magazines, local groups and mailing lists.

We believe that PyConUK changed because they do have possible liabilities for the conference; since the ACCU conference is organised by Archer Yates, the ACCU is in a slightly different situation. The committee will review this at the next meeting.

5.2 Annual General Meeting, 2018

AGM Schedule:

Announce date: 14 Jan 2018 (AGM - 90)

Proposal deadline: 13 Feb 2018 (AGM - 60)

Draft Agenda: 3 Mar 2018 (AGM - 42)

Agenda Freeze: 17 Mar 2018 (AGM - 28)

Voting Opens: 24 Mar 2018 (AGM - 21)

AGM: 14 Apr 2018

Malcolm Noyes has announced that he will not be standing again as secretary.

6. Date of next meeting

The date of the next committee meeting will (provisionally) be Saturday 20th January 2018 @ 2:30 UK time, via Hangouts.