

Zero Point AGM 18 July 2007

Department of Art

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Zero Point AGM 1A transcript

Dan: You could always put them in a tub or something, put them away

Stuart: Yeah, yeah, finance it as sops

Dan: What is the budget for your research project then Stu?

Stuart: It's not huge (pause) I knew I had some money available, in the budget, for expenses, but I wasn't clear on what it was for.

Matt: Coffee (laughs)

Stuart: He said, "Well you can use it for tea or coffee if you want, but it's available for books and conferences and stuff as well", and I said "What, book? For me? I can like get books?"

Niki: And you hadn't been told this.

Stuart: No, I mean I knew I could use it for conferences and stuff but I wasn't aware that I might actually just be able to buy some books.

Matt: Got a wish list on Amazon already have you?

Stuart: Uh-huh

(Sitting down)

Ellie: You don't need that book, Stuart

Stuart: This? This is for my other research. This is for if I think of anything I need to specifically remember. (Looking at ZP Book) I haven't seen this for a long time. Niki is hungry and slightly bored.

Matt: Is that the sort of thing you'll be writing?

Niki: I am quite hungry

Matt: Biscuits?

Dan: I'll have a few actually

Ellie: Mmmm

(Indistinct, muffled by crackling packets)

Niki: Shall I just take it all? Or is there, just our pics... (referring to photos from Red Line Group project)

Stuart: I'm not sure what's on there to be honest, Ana just gave it to me

Niki: I'll just take it all then just delete whatever's not...

Ellie: Are there any toilets up here Stuart?

Stuart: Not up here, no

Ellie: Back from where we came?

Stuart: On the first, no, ground floor

Ellie: All the way back down?

Stuart: Well if you catch the lift back to the ground floor the door opens right next to the women's toilet.

Ellie: OK,

Niki: 3 ½ Gig!

Stuart: What is there a lot of stuff on there?

Dan: What is it, videos and stuff?

Stuart: Cos it's not just our images, it's like, um, some of Sabine's, some of Eliane's as well

Niki: Sure

Dan: Is there going to be some more images going up on the website? I mean, Red Line stuff?

Niki: Yeah, there'll be text and new images, and other things that people did over the week eventually.

Ana: Yeah, Is it, I haven't looked in the last couple of days, is there anything up on the wiki about the content?

Niki: On the wiki about Red Line? No, no. I did look at the wiki yesterday, but there was only Stuart's timeline

Ana: I've done a couple of things but not uploaded them. (Pause, sigh)

Stuart: What?

Ana: Just, you know, everything gets whittled down to some...

Stuart: How many of us then?

Ana & Niki: Six

Dan: Out of a possible...

Niki & Stuart: nine

Niki: Well eight

Ana: Oh yeah, Jonathan, I was thinking...

Dan: If you record it on mono, Stuart, will it record both microphones?

Stuart: Uh, yeah, because it's just going in through, um, through a microphone splitter, and they're both on the same channel.

Dan: Oh right, I see.

Stuart: Shall we check that though, do you just want to tap that one?

(tapping)

Stuart: and that one?

(loud tapping)

Stuart: Yeah

Niki: Just like, are you not supposed to touch the table, and stuff.

Stuart: That's the loudest thing (rattles cup) but I only just thought of this set-up the other day, cos anyone at that end should get picked up more by that microphone, anyone at that end will get picked up by that, and anyone in the middle will get picked up a bit by both, so...

Dan: It won't have your position in space in a mono recording.

Stuart: No, it's just to have, it should be an equal volume, whereas if you just had one microphone at one end of the room.

Niki: But then you could position people down the table by how loud their voices are.

(laughter)

Ana: Some people's voices vary depending on how agitated they are.

Stuart: yeah, and then there's pitch as well, will probably have an effect. (munching) I do like those biscuits. I didn't come with anything for the agenda.

Ana: You surprise me.

Stuart: Thought I'd follow Niki and Jonathan's example from the first Zero Point meeting and just come with nothing, just to, let it happen kind of thing. I think I've probably got enough stuff in my memory from the year that I could probably talk about anyway.

Niki: Sure

Ana: Are you going to make us, like, not talk for 20 minutes or something?

Stuart: I did consider that, yeah, 20 minutes of silence

Matt: Where was the first Zero point meeting, can't remember

Stuart: It was

Niki: Where or when?

Matt: Where

Niki: It was in that

Stuart: All Bar One, All Bar One in Brindleyplace, upstairs, in the corner nearest to ICC

Niki: And it was quite a long gathering

Stuart: There was quite a few people there actually

Niki: I'm sure there was about 15, 12 or 15

Stuart: I'm not sure that it says anywhere; only 6 people said anything that got noted in the book though

Niki: But it was different on that occasion because people were writing down what they wanted to write down, things weren't getting noted

Stuart: It wasn't like, it wasn't like minutes. Speaking of which

(Ellie writing and laughter)

Dan: Pen and pointer, really adopting the lecturer's lifestyle

Niki: You haven't seen the full extent of this pen yet, Dan

Stuart: Is it telescopic as well?

Ellie: It's a spy pen

Stuart: Has it got a thing like that as well?

Ellie: Oh I wish. Jon got me it in China; it's my present from China

Stuart: Is it a walkie-talkie?

Ellie: He said that his friend who he was there with, bought a telescopic one, then I started to really not like this one.

Niki: You put it on the floor and pushed it in front of his crying face.

Ellie: I wish that mine was *tu ti ti* awww, but it's still quite good

Matt: Once it was extended it'd be too long to use as a pen, if it was compact...

Ellie: But it's a pointer, it's for pointing at things, but it's also, yeah

Stuart: One that you pull out and it's got a dagger inside it.

Dan: A poison dart

Stuart: Just for controlling the class

(eating, drinking)

Ellie: So, when I was in the toilet, did you talk about the absentees at all?

Niki: No

Dan: No, we haven't talked about anything yet.

Niki: We were waiting

Ellie: Oh?

Niki: ...for you to get back, for the full group to be present

Matt: We should probably start with apologies

Ellie: But what about the person who left

Matt: Oh yeah

Ellie: Who upped and left earlier in the week.

Stuart: He's the first person, maybe he's not, is he the first person who

Ellie: officially

Stuart: Who has officially left, that's kind of said, "I'm standing down"

Niki: He's the first person to address that to everybody, other people have left

Ellie: I think Bruce left, didn't he

Niki: He only addressed that to certain people, he didn't make the point that a decision had been taken.

Ana: I think who the group was, was formalised after Bruce left, so maybe Jonathan felt it was more official

Ellie: I think he did need to be, quite, you know, official about his departure, so soon to the annual celebrations, maybe he was ashamed about it

Ana: Yeah, but maybe he didn't want to come and have all the benefit of the indoor fireworks, and then leave, we would have felt like he was just, you know, getting the fun and not carrying on

Ellie: None of the hard work

Matt: There is a sense that, having an AGM does kind of formalise the group in a way, with a formal structure, and it may have prompted his action in some ways, cos there was an emphasis on everyone attending

Ellie: Yeah

Dan: It's a good break point

Ellie: We were speculating on the train that he just didn't have enough time to come but was too chicken to say that, so he thought, I'm just going to have to leave

Niki: I think the meeting dictated his decision to leave, more than the decision to leave... it was like, it's a lot of time out of this week, I'm busy, and therefore I feel that the decision to not come, is a decision to not carry on with it, sort of thing, the time in the week was a stimulus to make a kind of, that, rather than just saying "I am carrying on, but I'm not coming" that he felt that to make that decision to not come, it was necessary to also

Dan: Yeah, at the Reactor meeting yesterday, he still said he was "intellectually interested in the project" but that the practicalities had... it had fallen off the list of his priorities, it was always at the bottom, and now it had fallen off, so

(laughter)

Stuart: I think if we hadn't had, like, an annual meeting, and it had just been a continuing progression of, like, monthly meetings or whatever, he probably would have stuck with it and

Dan: If the meeting had been in Nottingham

Ellie: (simultaneously) If the meeting had been in Nottingham, you know

Dan: He probably would have stayed. Dave probably would have diverted his (plans?)

Ana: And it could easily have been in Nottingham, cos the only reason it's in Birmingham is cos of Pam

Dan: Which is now completely pointless.

Ellie: But we wouldn't have had such a sophisticated surroundings, would we?

Stuart: An actual conference room

Ellie: Yeah!

Dan: We'd have had the Broadway

Ellie: So in that respect it's a bit like survival of the fittest, isn't it? You know, those who can make that commitment, and challenge

Ana: Survival of the bloody minded, would be more like it

Niki: Cos I'm sure that everybody can understand where Jonathan's kind of coming from, because if I look at it in terms of my priorities for the week, it does come fairly low down on my, you know, there are other things that are far more important for me to get done this week than being here for this period of time, so if I look at it in a kind of prioritising sense then I wouldn't come, so there's something else which forms the reason for coming which isn't

Ellie: Commitment

Niki: about seeing it within that kind of, a list of priorities

Ellie: Yeah

Dan: Which leads onto my question that I kind of formulated

Ellie: For the agenda?

Dan: For the agenda.

Ellie: Are we going to write them down? The points for the agenda, or are we just going to

Dan: Yeah, we can write them down if anybody's

Ellie: And then go through them, like maybe this should be like, an informal introductory discussion, and then we should lead into the points, because we've got 3 ½ hours

Dan: But there's also comments about the agenda, or having an agenda, which slightly confused me? I don't think we'd ever ruled out having an agenda

Niki: and also, like, the agenda is part of the whole, the nature of having an AGM, because it isn't an AGM, and it isn't an agenda, all it is is points that people have in their head that they would raise anyway during the meeting, like it's just

Dan: Formalising it

Niki: It's just, it isn't really formalising it, it's just providing this kind of, this front, or this kind of, you know, or this kind of parody of what a formal meeting would be

Ellie: Yeah, but it's to make it stand out from all the other meetings, isn't it? It's to make it that special meeting that only happens once a year

Matt: But I think it's interesting in the fact that Jonathan and Pam have taken two, they both haven't come, but they've taken two different actions. Jonathan's left and Pam's just sent her apologies, so, they've both kind of done the same thing

Ellie: And Dave who you've forgotten

Matt: and Dave

Dan: He has done neither

Stuart: He's just not coming

Ana: Has he said any reason?

Niki: He, like, Ellie saw him

Ellie: I went to the studio to pick something up, I was running because I had to run there and run back to catch the train, and he was in there cutting wood, and I was like "What are you doing? Train's leaving in 10 minutes!" he said, "Oh, well, I'm not coming, I was going to text", but I just gave him a filthy look and walked past him.

Niki: So I texted him, and then he rang me back, because my text wasn't necessarily that, um,

Stuart: Polite?

Niki: Friendly, polite, um and he was saying that he wasn't kind of, it wasn't that he was just behind with things, and he wasn't being kind of malicious, which I said "I didn't ever think you were being, Dave", um, and he just said that he had intended to come, he'd gone to the studio with the intention of coming on the train but something else had

come up, it was a personal crisis, and he would email us about it at a later point, so I didn't really go into any detail there.

Matt: There' um

Dan: It's just the fact that it's three, if it was just one with like apologies, or like personal crisis then it might not feel like so much of an internal crisis, but it's just the fact of the three, I think it's kind of got me down

Stuart: A third, a third of the group just vvssht! Hacked off

Ellie: Dave hasn't been to a single meeting this year. It's, I would be tempted to assassinate him

(laughter)

Stuart: Excommunication

Ellie: With my laser pointer, shine it into his pupil, which you're not allowed to do, it's very dangerous. Yeah

Niki: All of them are last minute decisions, so they do have, they've been prompted by a kind of sudden realisation, that, for, whatever the thing is, there's this other thing that I've got to do and therefore, and the reaction, and the way that it's been done is slightly different but it is that same thing, it isn't like, you know, if I was in Jonathan's position, and like, wanted to leave the group, I would have made that decision before the meeting was arranged, rather than allowing the meeting to be arranged, and then deciding, kind of a few days before, so I think that in a lot of ways his decision is quite similar to other people's, he's just gone about it in a ...

Ellie: I think, I have a theory about it, and that is that Zero Point, like Jonathan said, was, fell off his list of priorities, was at the bottom of his list of priorities, and it fell off, because like

Dan: I just wonder what got added to the top to make that happen

Ellie: Yeah! If people,

Dan: What came in to replace it?

Stuart: It's just a contracting list

Ellie: because he thinks it's, um, a waste of his time, and to a certain extent because we don't have a purpose, and we don't have any outcomes or any deadlines, it is a waste of time, but it's no more of a waste of time than reading a newspaper or any of those other things you might do, except you don't schedule those in two months in advance, so if you were going to schedule

Ana: Do you really think it's on par with reading a newspaper?

Ellie: I don't know

Ana: Is that the kind of level of priority it's got for you

Ellie: (laughs) in terms of like, what commitment it involves, afterwards

Matt: Commitment to how you spend your time really, isn't it?

Ellie: Yeah, so I think that if he, um, if he'd scheduled in two months ago that he was going to spend the afternoon reading a book, for example, then it would be easier to then change his mind when this week came around, and he then realised that he had too much to spend, that he had too much to do to spend six hours reading a book, and I can, yeah, so therefore, he pulled out, but he didn't think, and when I say he I mean all of them, they didn't think about us, and the impact that them not being there would have on the significance of the meeting, cos the meeting was

Dan: The meeting can't carry on as if it would of without them being here, but I don't care

Ellie: Well it's not that momentous day that it's mean to be

(laughter)

Stuart: See I think it's possibly more interesting

Dan: It's raised a lot more questions

Ellie: There's a lot more to talk about.

Stuart: Cos then that's making me think, "Well what is, what is everyone else's interest in this project?" Because if, if someone can just say "Oh well, it's a waste of time anyway, but I was just a member to see if anything else happened" kind of attitude

Ellie: Yeah

Stuart: Then it's kind of making me wonder what other people' s thoughts are

Dan: Yeah

Stuart: And it's just kind of like, well I didn't have anything better to do today, so I thought I'd go to the Zero Point meeting

Dan: They're gonna miss the fireworks

Niki: I mean, I think it's important, like, there's that kind of, there's the thing about it that doesn't make sense, because every time that I come to a meeting, I could justify that I've got something better to do

Ellie: Yeah

Niki: And yet I still come, because I've taken that decision to do that, and that isn't because I'm forced to do it or, and it isn't because I can rationalise that actually this is going to be better, or more productive, or you know, whatever, it's simply the fact that you've taken the decision to do that, and that is about a kind of, a negotiation and a relationship that's developed amongst a group of people and about how, how that's kind of dealt with and respected over a period of time, and I think that other people not perceiving it in that way causes problems for that? Because when I got the email this morning I did just think, oh, what is the point of me going to it?

Ellie: Yeah

Niki: Because it isn't what I agreed to come to. I agreed to come to the meeting that everyone was going to be present at.

Matt: But then, but then again, we do, we have had regular, if it wasn't the AGM, if it was just a scheduled meeting, there wouldn't be full attendance at that, and yet you might still come to that

Niki: Sure

Ellie: But the difference is

Dan: (Simultaneously) But that doesn't specify

(general babble)

Matt: you just felt let down

Niki: Yeah

Ellie: I think it's a difference because it's in the daytime as well, and it is six hours (laughs)

Dan: That's not very off-putting though, to me

Ellie: To me that, that, that did, I can imagine if this meeting had started at 4, rather than 2, we might not have had so many casualties

Stuart: I don't think so

Matt: (Simultaneously) I don't think so

Stuart: I think it is the nature of it

Ana: They had a choice, so they obviously could have done it

Stuart: I think it's like, cos we said, right, you know, it's an AGM, it sort of built up into this kind of thing of, oh like, it's serious now, then people, then that's what's, er, made people, kid of, come to a decision, that they maybe would have come to anyway, eventually, but it's just like, it seems like a nice neat kind of cut off point to make that decision.

Ana: Yeah, no, I think it's quite a good thing, yeah, it's making people consider why we're here and what we're doing

Niki: But Dave and Pam haven't taken any decision, other than not being here, they haven't taken any

Stuart: yeah

Ellie: They haven't taken any responsibility for their actions

Dan: No

Stuart: I was thinking of Jonathan specifically. I'm still most disappointed with Pam though, to name names on record, um

Ana: No that's true, because we waited a month, for her

Stuart: We waited an extra month

Ana: And it's in Birmingham for her, which has made it more difficult for some of the people

Ellie: And she must have known she was going to Poland for years, for days,

Stuart: She knew she was going to Poland, but she'd not allowed, there's some, like the amount of work she had expanded to fill the time

Ellie: yeah

Stuart: That she had available, but, and this didn't count as work, I guess

Ellie: yeah, but I never thought, I thought, it was like work

Dan: But like, on that point, just that point of like work, goes back to Ellie's point, which is, like, you talk, you equated Zero Point to reading a book,

Ellie: yeah

Dan: or reading a newspaper, which is like, essentially, recreational time

Niki: (questioning) hmmm, hmmm

Stuart: Not, not, not for Ellie, that's work isn't it?

Niki: I don't consider reading a book, or reading a newspaper recreational

Matt: I don't get much time to do that

Dan: In a general sense it would be

Ana: But there is a sense it's something that can, maybe you'll let go of if something more important comes up

Ellie: Yeah

Ana: Whereas there are some things which, you know, "No, that's what I have to do", and, even if something really awful happens, like personal life, I'd still know I'd be doing that.

Ellie: Well, that's to do with commitment isn't it, and like you said, bloody-mindedness, which I think is a very good point, and it's like, not wanting to be the last one to leave, no, *wanting* to be the last one to leave, not wanting to be the first one to leave, it's like being evicted from Big Brother. (laughter) You don't want the humiliation of being the first one, but Jonathan obviously doesn't mind.

Niki: See like, I wouldn't have a problem with deciding to leave, and then just doing it, I think that it's the way that it's come about that I find problematic, not the actual decision, because, I don't, like I have no interest in sticking around to be the last one, kind of like

Ellie: I thought that was, what you were doing here, Niki

Niki: No

Ana: That would be worse, being the last one. But sure, there's still an assumption that people are going to be leaving, Ellie

Ellie: I don't, I mean I

Ana: It's built up and it's going down

Ellie: I've got no reason to leave, unless, it was decided that, if I didn't attend a certain meeting, I would be ejected from the group

Stuart: And then it wouldn't be your decision

Ellie: And then it wouldn't, yeah, and then I may be forced to leave, but other than that,

Dan: You're fired

Ellie: I'm fired, yeah, I can't imagine

Ana: Shall we fire her?

Matt: I don't think there's been any occasions where those sorts of decisions have been made, have there?

Dan: No

Matt: Where the group's decided to, uh

Dan: Very, very few decisions have been made

Matt: on individuals

Ellie: I think we need to send them

Stuart: Some decisions have been made

Dan: On that level, a couple of decisions have

Matt: Most of it's come down to self, responsibility, well

Dan: People have just fallen off the wagon

(laughter)

Dan: Fallen off the Zero Point wagon and without kind of telling you that they were falling or that they needed a hand

Stuart: I think we need to take a picture don't we?

Ellie: We need to send them a stern email

Niki: A lot of people were never on the wagon to begin with

Dan: Well, they were when we set off from Bar All-In-One or whatever it was

Niki: But I think that if you're going to create that kind of analogy, like, surely the group had to build the wagon in the first place to get on it? And I don't think it was there to begin with

Dan: Yeah

Ellie: Or you could see this as the first building, this could be the first building point in the wagon, this could be the wagon

Dan: No, this is our first stop off

Ellie: No, this is the wagon!

Stuart: Got tired of walking now

Ellie: They didn't even; they were running behind waiting to jump onto the wagon and didn't quite make it

Dan: They were hanging on by fingertips

Ellie: But I sent Dave a stern email a few months ago saying 'look Dave you haven't been to any meetings this year'...

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Ellie: This was when we were talking about arranging the AGM. Cos he was the only person who'd voted that he couldn't do any of the days.

(laughter)

Dan: yeah that's right, yeah, I remember that, that was a major setback

(laughter)

Stuart: It's like, in what sense are you a member of the group if you can't come to any of the times that the meetings are arranged for, and when it's finally arranged and you've agreed to it you then don't come again. You haven't been to any meetings this year at all.

Ellie: yeah so, after I sent the email, he did reply to say he still wanted to be there.

Stuart: and he has contributed to the forum either.

Niki: he contributed to the forum last night, have you not been on the forum? Oh yes it was a hive of activity last night. I was on it last night.

Ellie: I was on it last night.

Dan: I was on it last night.

Ellie: It's like a little vote. You could vote... Dave's created a forum vote thing... it's quite good.

Matt: something of nothing?

Ellie: I thought it was going to be a turning point for Dave to be honest.

(laughter)

Niki: it was.

Ana: But is he actively not getting involved? D'you think?

Niki: When I spoke to him on the phone about it earlier on this week, sort of thing, cos we both had a discussion about the fact that neither of us really had time to come to this thing this week, and we both agreed that we were gonna come and he's said 'cos if I don't come I may as well not bother'. You know, those were if kind of parting words to me so...

Ellie: Well damn right, he's hit the nail on the head

Matt: Well let's just assume that he's got a good reason for not coming

Ellie: I think it'd have to be a pretty damn good reason.

Dan: Well I don't know... the fact that he put his point on the forum and that you were voting on the forum and therefore, you know, that kind of, it's almost, if he didn't do that consciously, that was in his subconscious maybe, that he wasn't going to be able to make it.

Ellie: do you think?

Dan: Possibly?

Ellie: So that was guilt that made him do that

Stuart: I say we arrange the next meeting for Dave's house, seeing he's... since we decided earlier on that is was the people out of the group that made the decision.

Ellie: Or Pam's house.

Stuart: yeah but that's in Wolverhampton and who wants to go there?

(laughter)

Ellie: So yeah

Matt: so in terms of the on the AGM... on the agenda are we going to continue with the ones that were supplied by absentees?

Ellie: I think we could... I think we need to make a decision about what to do about the absentees. And how to discipline them.

Ana: their punishment?

Ellie: yeah

(laughter)

Stuart: I think their punishment is missing out on the fireworks.

Dan: their punishment is just missing out full stop on everything that is happening today, you know and if they don't feel so of disappointed or you know or upset about that, then that's there problem isn't it.

Ellie: so you don't think we should tell them to leave the group?

(laughter)

Dan: no I don't

Ellie: because if we did make a decision now that they were no longer in the group then everyone who was in Zero Point would be present at the AGM.

(laughter)

Matt: (can't hear what he says)

Niki: Yes it was a unanimous decision, whilst I was in a room on my own.

Ana: I think maybe give him one more chance.

Ellie: do you think? OK. You're very generous,

Niki: oorf

Ellie: You're very generous Ana.

Niki: the more generous side of the table over there

(laughter)

Ana: I've always been generous, I want to let new people in actually.

Ellie: Do you?

Ana: I did

Ellie: Have you got people in mind?

Ana: No, no, no. I mean it was... I think that was one of the major decisions that we *did* make was that it became a fixed group and that...

Stuart: at that fateful meeting in Nottingham.

Dan: no more members.

Ana: And that certainly changed my perception of the group when that happened, so I think that was quite a big...

Ellie: was that in January, was that the first meeting of the year?

Niki: no that was before January.

Stuart: Yeah... that was...

Ellie: Oh I wasn't even at that meeting

Niki: Dave was at that meeting.

Stuart: it was the meeting where...

Ellie: so it's funny how I was allowed to stay even though I wasn't at that meeting

Stuart: It was where Bruce turned up with Mable and um... I can never remember her name...

Ellie: Maria

Stuart: Maria that's it yeah

Ellie: so they weren't the ones that...

Dan: so while they were there we decided that... that they...

Stuart: they were part of the discussion.

Dan: and we were like...

Ana: It was quite traumatic

Stuart: And because they were upset that we decided that they couldn't join I think that they didn't really want to be members of the...

Dan: would they be here today?

Stuart: they the signed up to the forum, so they're members of the forum... although they stopped commenting once we stopped responding to them.

Dan:

Ellie: oh, that's a bit mean actually.

(laughter)

Ellie: I'm glad I wasn't at that meeting... they were like... ostracised

Dan: But you understand the reason why that decision was taken Ellie?

Ellie: No

Dan: the reason behind that decision was...

Ellie: cos I...wasn't even at that meeting

Dan: that they weren't there at the start... Like with it being Zero Point... it being a collect...

Ellie: But I'd never *been* to a single meeting.

Dan: But you were... you were there from the start.

Stuart: but you signed up

Dan: you didn't drop out at the times that we reoffered people to reaffirm their commitment, so... you signed up to start with like... so like Stuart said in his blurb in his.. was that your dissertation Stuart?

Stuart: It's the proposal yeah.

Dan: Yeah that point in that, which was about... yeah hierarchy and how because the group started on a level footing with us all being at the start, that there was no kind of hierarchy in that nobody kind of, well started it.

Stuart: Yeah, as soon as you left and people joined at a later date then they would, whether they were or not... whether anyone considered them to be on a different footing... there would be a kind of de facto hierarchy because they joined later.

Niki: because you can't avoid a hierarchy completely can you, because obviously we already discussed at many meetings that decisions are taken by people that are present and therefore that forms a hierarchy of sorts.

Ellie: do you think there's any coffee left?

Dan: I not sure if there is in that other pot.

Ellie: Hot water.

Stuart: I'm not sure if that is a hierarchy, it's definitely like a temporary structure

Ellie: wha... what's a temporary structure?

Niki: But hierarchy doesn't have to be fixed.

Matt: but there needs to be some sort of temporary structure in order to change the... what's happening...

Stuart: um

Matt: ...out of the group, so decisions need to be made about what's going on and how the group operates, so 'people present' is a good way of doing it really... could be people that aren't present make the decisions, but that would be a lot harder.

(laughter)

Stuart: You have to sort of channel the...

Niki: I think it was a very kind of practical decision because when we... at one meeting there was myself, Stuart and Pam there and we decided that we would arrange the next meeting date and location based on everybody's availability rather than on the three of us making a decision at that point in time... and hopefully create a situation where everyone would be there because it would take account of everybody, but what actually happened was that no meeting was ever arranged sort of thing, so by not doing it there and then it kind of just kind of gets lost somewhere and doesn't actually happen at all. So if people are there and sit there with their diaries and they write it in, then there is some sense of the next thing being put in place.

Stuart: yeah

Niki: Cos it's not a um... it's not a responsive enough group in a remote situation, in that the kind of email forum contact seems very kind of up and down for different people at different points in time and you know it could go months without somebody responding to a particular point and therefore...

Ellie: but Stuart how do you feel about always being at the meetings when nobody else is online? Do you feel like you're doing it because of your thesis or do you...

Stuart: no I'm...

Ellie: does that drive you to attend?

Stuart: no not really... I just... it's, it's in my phone and it reminds me.

Ellie: ohh

Dan: that's a good idea

Stuart: I all that...

Dan: sometimes I am in the house, near an internet connection and I just forget.

Stuart: forget

Ellie: yeah sometimes I'm sitting there writing emails

Dan: I remember earlier in the day 'oh yeah Zero Point tonight, I'm around, I can definitely be part of it' and then all of a sudden it's like I'll be it's like oh it's half ten... shit

Ellie: I've done that.

Stuart: Well mine's set at... it's not on this week.

Ellie: (laughs) are you sure?

Dan: I going to set mine.

Stuart: it's set at 9 o'clock and the alarm goes off half an hour before, but if I don't turn the alarm off then it beeps every five minutes to remind me, so for half an hour I just got it beeping at me every five minutes.

Matt: that's why you're there.

Ellie: Bloody hell... Do you have it on your phone (Ana) or does Stuart remind you?

Ana: um... well if I'm in the house then Stuart would remind my and if I'm out then I'm not going to make it.

Stuart: But you know, quite a lot of the time I'll be out at a private view in Birmingham and...

Ana: yeah he'll say...

Stuart: and I'll say 'right I'm going now...

Ana and Stuart: Zero Point meeting

Stuart: I go home... yeah

Ellie: no way! That's amazing.

Ana: I mean it's a bit awkward for us because we like we can't both be online at the same time, so that kind of, so well I think if Stuart's going then I there's no point me going as well kind of thing...

Ellie: so you stay out?

Ana: well I always do that

Dan: I now have a reoccurring alarm for every Wednesday at 9 o'clock.

Stuart: Yeah, a system.

Dan: I won't miss another meeting if I'm near an internet connection. Now I've got a laptop as well...

Stuart: cos sometimes I'm be on the computer anyway and I'll be online and it'll just be a case of logging in, signing on. It's not like I just sat there looking at the screen going 'come on', you know...

(laughter)

Dan: Yeah

Ellie: You set up, you start the thread don't you?

Stuart: yeah, just start a new thread and then get on with some work and just keep checking every sort of 20 minutes to see if anyone's there.

Ellie: But do you think the meetings would be different like if we all set alarms in our phone... I don't know if I can do that... I guess I can

Dan: yeah cos I'm sure a lot of people just forget.

Ellie: yeah but the meetings would be really different wouldn't they... would they be better or worse?

Dan: if there were more people online?

Ellie: yeah.

(laughter)

Dan: yeah I think they'd be a lot more interesting than Stuart going 'hello' 'goodbye'.

Ellie: is that better? I mean it would, it's more, if more people are there then the meeting is going to involve more time for everyone, more effort for everyone

Dan: but they'd be more discussion

Stuart: I think some of those online meetings have been quite interesting when there's been more people there and in... they get more, more, some, not every time, but sometimes they get more theoretical... um than they are at the physical meetings cos we tend to deal with more practical details at the physical meetings and those practical details aren't discussed generally speaking at the online meetings then... they got a different kind of... use

Niki: yeah I think that some of the ones where there's been a number of people online you know, they've been more interesting than the ones that...

Stuart: even the stupid ones where it's just like people just being stupid for half an hour on the forum that's fun as well.

Ellie: I don't know whether I can set one (alarm)... ooh make a note?

Ana: do you have it on your calendar?

Ellie: reminder? But I think I have to do it for every Wednesday separately.

Ana: yeah that's true.

Stuart: well yeah, mine just gives you the option of... it might give you the option of saying 'repeat'.

Ellie: Because I think it's quite a commitment to put the alarm on in my phone...

Dan: yeah cos I was just thinking about it you know...

Ellie: because then the guilt would be too much

Dan: it's only one hour a week... if you can't like in terms of like priority and er hierarchy of priorities, you know, if you can't make it for one hour a week on a fairly regular basis... it's not much to ask is it? An hour a week? I'm asking myself this question as much as I am raising it you know then you know, yeah but.

Ana: so if everyone's gonna have times...

Stuart: do you spell attendance with an A or attendance E?

Ana: Everyone's going to have times when they can't make it, but it's just that it's become more common that people can't make it on a Wednesday, or forgets about it or, and that's a sign of something else going on rather than just...

Matt: is there a problem with the when it actually is in the week? For me there is.

Ana: is there? We've kind of discussed it a few times so...

Matt: yeah

Ana: I don't really mind changing it so

Matt: there's never a...

Niki: I don't have a specific problem with Wednesday nights although quite often I am doing something, but quite often I'm doing something every night of the week, so don't mind changing it.

Dan: Do you have a fixed thing on a Wednesday?

Matt: Not a fixed thing, but quite regularly, so

Dan: right ok, I don't have a fixed thing on a Wednesday

Matt: yeah, so keep it as it is

Stuart: you know I'm completely open to it being any time really, yeah

Ana: um

Stuart: and it sounds like everyone else is really, so

Dan: yeah.

Stuart: if you wanted to suggest a time?

Niki: yeah just give it a different day and give it a go sort of thing

Dan: it's easy enough for me to reset my alarm

(laughter)

Ellie: I can't set the alarm... I can't... that's going to affect my...

Ana: we could just text you every week

Dan: It's just like Friday, Saturday, Sunday nights, weekends are kind of out, but midweek and around that time, Monday nights?

Ellie: can you do an alarm on that?

Matt: it's fine, just keep it as it is.

Stuart: are you sure?

Matt: it's fine

Stuart: cos you don't want to say 'well make it a Thursday' and then never turn up, do you?

(laughter)

Stuart: I know how it is...

Matt: well I work a lot of evenings so... it kind of varies what day I work

Ellie: yeah, I work Thursdays

Stuart: midnight every Friday

Matt: (could catch what he said)

(laughter)

Dan: Yeah I usually do after midnight, between midnight and 2 would be ok

Ellie: I'm normally at home between 4 and 5 in the morning most nights.

(laughter)

Dan: is it possible to have a meeting in our sleep?

Matt: maybe I should build a little robot which'll stand in for me.

Stuart: yeah, yeah... some kind of online...

Matt: delayed response

Dan: a standard response...

Ellie: a spam thing...

Dan: you could build a programme that just did, you know you could set a load of responses... everyone would do the same

Ellie: 'hi it's me again'

(laughter)

Ellie: 'very interesting Stuart'

Dan: we could have the meeting remotely when we all asleep

Stuart: 'that's interesting would you care to expand on that'

(laughter)

Dan: 'oh right'

(laughter)

Stuart: I could go on...

Niki: but it raises that point about whether the forum is that kind of passive situation whereby you... the time is dictated to you by this agreement that you've made or whether you could simply say you know you get up in the morning and you realise that you're not doing anything that night and you send an email at 9 o'clock in the morning saying 'I'm going to be on the forum and 9 o'clock tonight and you wait and see whether anyone kind of responds to that and you know that you pro-actively determine when a kind of forum meeting is, I don't whether that would have ever happen...

Matt: but the other thing is that there's no, you can go on the forum when you like

Dan: yeah, that did go through my head.

Ana: yeah quite like the that I think maybe... maybe if we're using it more in between meetings, that as well might work

Dan: yeah I think the set meeting should be fixed at that time

Ana: um

Dan: And I think both the other options are workable as well, without major extra effort. Like, both of what you're saying, both sending an email and you know whoevers around goes online for the meeting...

Ana: But it just starts that slippery slope... 'oh no one's on'...

Dan: oh now it could be like a weekly thread, that get's added to in between times

Ana: yeah, yeah

Ellie: yeah I mean I went on it last night briefly, but I mean I almost more tempted to go on it when there isn't a meeting and just sort or read and leave a comment on things...

Dan: and lurk...

Ellie: there's less pressure, just lurk and spy

Matt: Well sometimes it takes longer to respond to a point someone's made anyway, you might want a day to think about it and get back to it... It's nice to have that kind of option. It can be used, say you had a thread a week and you can use it outside of that meeting time and also try to the meeting as well.

Dan: so like after the meeting at 10 o'clock on a Wednesday a new thread would be started for the next week until 9 o'clock the following Wednesday... when you'd have the meeting.

Ana: That's assuming someone's going to think of something interesting or, immediately

Dan: no it doesn't matter if nobody comments on that thread for the week, just as long as at the end of the meeting there's a thread there for people to, then it kind of keeps it kind of...

Ellie: have you done it? (set the alarm)

Stuart: I think so.

Ellie: (gasps)

Dan: keeps some kind of structure to the forum...

Ellie: in the Calendar settings?

Dan: in the expanded sense, and then if there's another meeting organised in a more haphazard way then that can get it's own thread as well so...everything's kind of kept in a separate box.

Matt: yeah I think the idea of having a set time of the week for some kind of experiment for use of the forum wasn't it? Have we come to the end of that experiment time? Or do we need to move on to the... expand that a little bit to keep the group workable?

Dan: I think so yeah, I think if you're beginning to wonder whether it's relevant to comment outside of the meeting times on the forum then perhaps that kind of might put you off

Matt: It's like you were saying if you can't commit to an hour a week, then you see that as a sort of minimum commitment time to the group, but you, you can't physically you know, get to you computer at that time, maybe you should you know, if you can't respond to a thread once in a week...

Dan: then you've got to question your...

Ellie: I don't think like, in terms of minimum commitment, you've... I mean I've always said I prefer the physical meetings to the online meetings that I get more out of them... so I

think, I dunno, if I was, if someone said to me I've got to commit a meeting a week I'd find that quite stressful... ooh thank you.

Matt: but you don't?

Ellie: I don't? (laughs)

Matt: you don't have to commit to a meeting a week, it was just a suggestion...

Dan: there's more scope for...

Matt: it was an invitation

Dan: there's more scope for development by being more flexible about the times the meetings take place.

Stuart: well I think the only reason for setting up the weekly online meeting was because um... we were all missing each other on the forum.

Dan: yeah

Stuart: yeah like people were commenting at random times, so there was, so no real discussion developed, and I think that was the main reason for saying right well there's a meeting space booked, basically its like having a room booked...

Dan: um

Stuart: at 9 o'clock every Wednesday, if you can't come that fine, but the room's booked and people know that there is potential for people to coincide at that time. And that's all there was to it.

Niki: is also the think like Stuart says, when you kinda log on the, and if nobody's there then you just, you're getting on with something else, it's not much, it's not the same as a physical meeting where if you get somewhere and nobody's there, if you've travelled to get there then that's slightly irritating for you...

Stuart: yeah you'd want wi-fi wouldn't you?

Niki: but um, um yeah um, I found the the online forum meetings as the physical meetings, I think there's been certain physical meetings and certain online forum meetings, I never really engaged with the forum when it was just kind of an ongoing thing, but that isn't to say that it couldn't work, I just never really did before. Um...

Dan: but, yeah I think it's just good to have the options and then people can engage with it on a few different levels, that suits them really.

Matt: but maybe that's, maybe it needs to be formalised to a degree so that we continue to keep meeting time, but then allow, if other people want to respond to threads at their own leisure then, they can do

Ellie: yeah

Dan: but, you know

Matt: but I decided not to do that because of the set out meeting times throughout the week...

Dan: yeah cos if you know you can't make the Wednesday for somebody to say, this is what I would have said had I been there... or I've been thinking about this... then if it get's discussed great. If not never mind.

Ellie: yeah, I mean, I think it is fairly informal anyway, given that mainly it's only Stuart that is there, so...

Stuart: it's not always just me

(laughter)

Ellie: When I logged on I just saw Stuart, Stuart, Stuart, Stuart, Stuart, Stuart, Stuart, all the threads...

Stuart: certainly for the last four weeks of something

Ellie: I felt slightly guilty... It's more than that, when you've set up all those folders... But yeah, I like, whenever I go on the forum, no matter what day of the week, I always like to leave a little comment, just so yeah.

Niki: checked it

Ellie: 'I was here'

(laughter)

Ellie: 'don't mess I was here', 'ten thirty on Tuesday'

Ellie: I think we should write our up agenda in the book. Like really neatly in capital letters

Stuart: you can write it in there if you want, if you think you've got better handwriting

Ellie: shall I...I, I haven't really done ay writing in the book. I might start here. Is that aright? Oh, I'm just doing it.

Dan: There's no hierarchy in here Ellie

Ellie: 'A...G...M... Agenda' Is it the 18th?

Stuart: yeah

Ellie: OK, has everybody got a point for discussion?

Ana: We've kind of already talked about some things haven't we, we had (something) points?

Ellie: my point is, shall I? Oh we have to go in alphabetical order don't we?

Niki: What differentiates Zero Point from...

Ellie: they have to go in alphabetical order.

Niki: do we?

Matt: Ana?

Ellie: go on Ana?

Niki: Point A

Ana: I was a bit stumped with mine, cos I was going to say something pretty similar to what Dave said anyway which was something or nothing

Ellie: oh really? Well you could both have that.

Ana: but I could make a different one, which might be a bit of a big issue

Ellie: OK

Ana: which we've kind of touched on already, which is 'what's the point?'

Ellie: OK

Ana: that's it 'what's the point?'

Ellie: What... is... the... point

Ana: what is the point of Zero Point?

Ellie: of...zero... point, very good, questionmark. So who's next?

Dan: er

Matt: B?

Niki: it might be Dave

Niki: which is...

Ellie: point Dave

Niki: which is better: 1) something, 2) nothing?

Ellie: which... is... better...something...

Stuart: there ain't much tea left (mumbles) the coffee's all gone.

Ellie: OK...shit... Dan did you have a point?

Dan: Yeah

Niki: oh cos Dan's before Dave as well, you've written them in the wrong order

Ellie: oh it doesn't matter

(laughter)

Ana: is there any coffee left

Stuart: no coffee left, just tea (mumbles), well there's water

Matt: have you got my one there Niki?

Niki: I haven't seen your point

Matt: I sent it this morning

Niki: Did you, what time?

Matt: about 11am

Niki: I didn't get that

Dan: yeah I'm not really sure of the best way of phrasing it but um, 'what would make zero point'..., if zero point is not a priority, then what would make it... what would make Zero Point into a priority?

Ellie: OK, so shall I just write 'what would make Zero Point a priority?'

Dan: I guess so yeah. That's you know based on the assumption that it's not a priority for most people at present.

Ellie: (mumble)... very good! Who is it? Is it me next?

Niki: yeah. Do you know your point?

Ellie: er, um, yeah... (pause) I can't quite remember how I phrased it., cos I stole the um...

Niki: 'What differentiates Zero Point from a social club?'

(pause, rustling)

Ellie: OK, then we've got...Eee, you Matt

Niki: me?

Ellie: no, Matt

Matt: oh er, 'currently could Zero Point be described as anything more than a discussion group'... it's a two point question...

Ellie: oh yeah

Matt: and 'what will Zero Point be in the future'?

Ellie: currently...could... zero...be...

Dan: is that your Flash stick?

Niki: Yeah

Dan: you got the images on there (mumbles)

Ellie: that's a good point, currently could Zero Point be described as any...

Matt: anything more than a discussion group

(pause, rustling)

Ellie: and...

Matt: what will it be in the future?

Ellie: what...

Stuart: sleek

Ellie: OK, so it's just Niki

Niki: 'if 2006 can be characterised as the year of forming, what does the year 2007 characterise? This can be expanded on by looking at what has already happened or as a vision for what will happen in the remainder of 2007... and there was my kind of side point as well.

Ellie: do you want to write it down?

(laughter)

Stuart: are you sure it doesn't want to be in the same handwriting?

Ellie: it does need to be neat

Ana: Yeah try and forge her handwriting a bit

Niki: my handwriting is quite similar to Ellie's so...

Matt: I read that website on the train, it was interesting, some good points on it

Ana: what was that?

Matt: oh

Dan: yeah maybe, we should wait

Ana: what were you saying, sorry?

Matt: forming, storming and...

Dan: forming, storming and norming

Ana: What are you talking about?

Stuart: Yeah I saw that the other day yeah?

Niki: separately?

Stuart: yeah it wasn't related to that, I just cos um...

Dan: and performing, that's the last one

Stuart: why were we talking about it? Oh it might

Ana: it was about 'b cut'?

Stuart: are you sure it wasn't about Big Brother of something?

Ana: maybe it (mumbles)

Stuart: no, it's just...

Ana: yeah maybe it wasn't 'b cut'

Stuart: yeah what were we talking about?

Zero Point AGM 1C transcript

[Dan trying to join wireless network]

Stuart: It might not work because it goes through a proxy server so you have to change all the, kind of, proxy settings in your browser anyway, they monitor everything anyone looks at here. Like a school or something. Don't get it personally.

Dan: It's a school of sorts.

Stuart: Yeah, but you know... we're all adults here. And beside, you know, someone might be researching pornography or something, as part of their practice. For instance (laughter)

Dan: Quite a common MA/PHD subject.

Stuart: I'm sure, yeah... probably get a special dispensation to do research into bombs or something

Nikki: Yeah I got a friend and he's doing MA at Chelsea at the moment and he's just got permission to create, kind of, bombs and explode them in the yard outside.

Stuart: Permission from the Police?

Nikki: No, I don't know, from the college at least. I don't know whether that's had to be run past...

Stuart: I think you probably need permission from the Police as well if you're going to be exploding things. Especially in Millbank.

Ellie: Fireworks?

Stuart: Bombs. Bombs. I think it is a criminal offensive to just make explosive devices

Matt: Without a licence?

[some murmuring and chat about the functions of minidisc recorder and camera]

Stuart: (taking photo) How many of us there are...

Ellie: Six. When I first worked out there were 9 of us, I was quite surprised...

Ana: Did you think there were more?

Ellie: No I thought there were a lot less. It's quite a number really. How many were in your European collaboration?

Ana: It was about 9 wasn't it? 9 or 10.

Stuart: Depending on how you look at it.

Ellie: People are so unreliable though, aren't they? A Fact of Life. Never Trust a Person.
[laughter]

Ana: It's funny you should say that, I have been thinking that a lot over the last few months.

Ellie: See Cows, Sheep, No problem. People, on the other hand.

Ana: It's just, when you start working collaboratively, or forming a kind of group, problems.
And it's not just teething problems..

Ellie How to find the perfect person.. to work with?

Ana: There's no such thing. I think it's more about learning how to work together, learning how to, not compromise in a bad way, but how to put certain things aside that you would normally be doing if you were working as a solo artist.

Ellie: Yeah... Are you still writing the agenda?

Stuart: Mmm.

Ellie: Oh, Are you putting Pam's point in?

Dan: I've put Pam's point on. Stuart's writing his point.

Ellie: Very neat. Very very neat. So shall we time how long we'll spend on each point.

Nikki: Nah, I think you talk about a point and you just stop talking about it when you want to.

Ana: A lot of them are quite interconnected anyway, we can just talk about other things...

Dan: Can you read out all the points so we can familiarise ourselves with them.

Stuart: [photographing] For this photo, do you all just want to scrunch up a bit? If you want to move down one, rather than push them...

Nikki: Then that's not Actually reflective of what actually happened.

Stuart: It will be if we stay in those positions after the photo.

Dan: Photos always represent what happened.

Nikki: It means what you think happened (something) with your eyes (?)

Stuart: Ready?

Matt: I've been ready since I got here.

[photo being taken]

Stuart: We're all in the picture, but we've got a lot of table. It wants to be on a box or something.

Ellie: Or a teacup might work?

Matt: A saucer. Upside-down?

Stuart: It won't be high enough...I think it might be a bit too high. Ooh yeah, yeah that's good, books...

Ana: What are they?

Nikki: Degree show catalogues. Keep it closed, keep it closed.

Stuart: Wow, those are all BA show catalogues?

Nikki: I saw more than enough of that show whilst I was here.

Ellie: It wasn't too bad.

Nikki: It was terrible. I was appalled by how bad it was.

Matt: I saw it last year.

Stuart: That doesn't really help, coz in order to not have the box in the shot it's got to be there, in which case Ellie's not in the shot

Nikki: Move the box back until it finds its point of balance.

Stuart: That's ok there.

[mumbles and giggles surrounding the taking of the next photo]

Matt: I'll move in.

Stuart: Just sit on the end there Matt.

Ana: This is a good way to kill an hour isn't it?

Dan: Just lean forward abnormally.

Matt: I'll be pointing at the biscuits.

Stuart: That's fine, we're all looking like we're trying to not look at the camera.

Ellie: Let's have a look... It's not bad. I don't know, it doesn't quite capture the ambience of the room.

Dan: Yeah Ellie's so faking it. (laughter) It's fine we're all in the shot.

Stuart: I'll delete the other two, so no other pictures exist.

Ellie: Ok. the agenda of today's meeting:

Point A - what is the point of Zero point?

Point D - which is better something or nothing?

Point DVA - what would make zero point a priority?

Point E - what differentiates Zeropoint from a social club?

Point M - currently, could zeropoint be described as anything more than a discussion group, and what will it be in the future?

Point N - if 2006 can be characterised as the year of forming, what does the year 2007 characterise? Has this already happened, or is it a vision?

Point D - Does it matter if no one shows up? What does it mean if we are there or not there?

Point S - Is it possible to have a social group of other group that is based on difference rather than consensus?... Interesting...

Dan: I think we need a few more hours.

Stuart: I think that's the agenda for the next year isn't it? Discuss that for like the next 12 months.

Dan: I think we could quite easily, especially the first point.

Stuart: We could start discussing that now, but each of those could be a thread, on the forum. Coz some of those are really interesting questions and I think could be discussed for months.

Matt: Do we need to set time limits for each question?

Ellie: I'd say some of the questions are more the sort of things that we've already been discussing in previous meetings, where as some of the other questions, you can tell, aim to set the agenda for what we're going to be doing in the future, which I think might be quite a useful thing to discuss.

Nikki: Shall we go through the points on the agenda, one at a time?

Ana: At the moment we should limit it a bit, so that if it looks like a discussion that's going to go on for hours and hours...

Ellie: That why we should try each point, like work out how much time we've got.

Ana: We've can have a vague idea of time, we don't have to stop in the middle of a sentence.

Stuart: We've got the room until half five if that's what we want.

Ellie: So that's 2 hours and 10 minutes. So that is... there 8 points, just over 15 minutes.

Dan: Well lets use that as a kind of guideline, but I can see it as being kind of distracting. In that, "Oh the 15 minutes is up, shall we carry on talking about this or not?"

Ellie: What if we can't talk for 15 minutes about one of the points.

Nikki/Dan: Move onto the next one.

Staurt: This is where you need a chair person isn't it?

Dan: You need to write next to the point how long we spent talking about it. Well actually take some notes on each point.

Ellie: Does anyone else want to take notes, I'm not really enthusiastic in my note taking? I'm very enthusiastic with my agenda writing.

Ana: Well shall we start?

Dan: Yeah I think we should start with the..

Ellie: You better start on the, oh no, you've got to keep flicking that way to read the agenda

Dan: I'll just start on the next page.

Ana: 'What's the point', we don't have to introduce them...

Ellie: What's the point in Zero point?

Dan: 'What's the point in Zeropoint' is a point that's been discussed all year I'd say. And it isn't a point that will ever be resolved?

Stuart: To kind of foreshadow my later question, do we have any kind of consensus within the group about what the point of Zeropoint is?

Matt: Well I'm clearer now than at the start.

Ellie: Before we get started, Ana, did the point come out of people not turning up, did you have that in mind anyway?

Ana: No it didn't, but it was to do with what I'm thinking quite generally about a lot of collaborations I'm a part of, but specifically for this a it's got a less clear reason for being..

Dan: And how does a name effect that question, how does the name effect the group?

Ana: Constantly when I've heard other talking about it, it all to do with Zero, Nothing..

Dan: That's the only sort of thing people have to cling on to, there's actually nothing there. They try to cling onto Zeropoint, but every time they try get it it's not there. It's a like mirage.

Ana: Circling around or something

Matt: I suppose that most groups are formed for maybe a specific purpose, um but not necessarily.

Nikki: But I think the idea of Point is something different to purpose. I remember a number of discussions where I've been asked what's the point in what ever it is I've been describing, I've been doing, and usually.. If I knew what the point was, if I ever got there, I'd be incredibly uninterested in it. This idea of a point that's at the end of something and you kind of get to, I don't know, it's not a question that I particularly like, having been asked it a number of times.

Ellie: A point is there, it's a point of convergence really, it's like the heading towards something or a conclusion in someway. Something you're trying to attain.., so in that respect I'd say that we have a few like small points, but at the end..

Dan: You talking about the point as if it's a goal

Ellie: A purpose, what else, why's it called a point? If it's not a point on the horizon?

Stuart: It could be interpreted as, 'what's the reason for zero point?'. There are different ways of looking at the word point.

Ana: I don't think it needs to be a goal or an aim or something that we're moving towards, and it doesn't even have to be a focus or a reason, it does tie back to a lot of the things we were talking about at the start of the meeting, to do with priorities and things that we going to talk about later.

Ellie: Does everybody have their own point for Zero point?

Stuart: Mine's changed since the start of the group.

Nikki: Some of the things could be deemed to be a point or a reason or whatever, have remained the same and were described in the brief but you put on the forum. Some of those things, although they may not have been worded that way, were kind of the same when it started, and I would imagine that there was some sort of consensus on that statement, but I could be wrong.

Stuart: It's more of a kind of drive isn't it, rather than a reason or point, it's like there's a particular driving force behind why we do it. So that's kind of, you could call it a point or a reason or whatever, but it's not aimed at a conclusion, it's a kind of intensity.

Matt: I think that really interesting what you said about a lot of the kind of drive comes out the name of the group. And like earlier on on the forum there was all kinds of discussion about Zero, nothing, and that's tailed off now, but that was the some of the initial activity.

Dan: I think that was one of the first things we could actually all latch onto as something to discuss... early on it was dispelled that any of the ideas that were written in the front of the book, that were going to be taken on in some way? You know, we sort of brain stormed for a while in that first meeting and none of the things seemed, well, maybe that interesting, or didn't really seem that relevant.

Stuart: It was like, we could do these things, but why is that any more relevant to do that than to not do those things?

Dan: Yeah and that kind of journey took us back to the Zero Point, and exploring that as something that every one could latch onto and find their own little internet gem to post on the forum..

Stuart: Switching between agenda items here, but in terms of Nikki's question, I would say that that process, at the beginning where we when through that process, discussing those things and then came to some kind of decision not to do those things, that was the initial stages of that forming process, it was like right we've decided, or a decisions been made that we're not going to do these things, and we're going to be a bit more cautious maybe about any reason for doing anything as we go along and that's like an initial Forming, and a lot of people dropped off at that point.

Dan: Yeah when there wasn't anything obvious going to happen.

Stuart: And then there was a little bit more of a forming stage where we had people turn up who we said they couldn't join, and that was the Storming stage.

Dan: Some people stormed out.

Stuart: And then based on that we came to some kind of agreement, a bit of consensus maybe, about what the nature of the project is, not even the nature of the project necessarily, but the nature of the form and membership of the group, and that was an agreement. and that's Norming, and we went through all of those stages...

Matt: I think maybe we came to a consensus not about what the purpose of the group is but how it works, the structurally I guess..

Ellie: The structure of Zeropoint is the point, the point that it has a structure is what makes it exist, we've talked about this before as well...

Ana: I think there's more to it than just the structure.

Dan: Yeah the group could kind of exist without the structure, we just chose to put that in place to...

Matt: I don't know if it could, I don't know if it would exist.

Dan: It wouldn't actually do anything.

Matt: Would it exist if it didn't do anything?

Stuart: If it's like a body, like the membership is referred to as a body (a professional body), you could as a body decide to sit there and not do anything. It would be dull and pointless.

Matt: But the point is we haven't decide to do that, if we have in the past, that would be the group, that's what it would be doing and it purpose would come out through doing that, but that's not what we decided.

Stuart: And that's why a think, going back to an earlier discussion on the forum, there is a difference between the idea of the group and the idea of the project, coz I think the group could just sit there and do nothing.

Matt: But you'd be actively passive where as just being passive is something completely different isn't is.

Ana: And that's something else I thought of as a question, are we become passive aggressive? Is it almost like we becoming too passive?

Stuart: Psychotic.

Ellie: As a collective?

Ana: Yeah kind of. In that it's become so much about not doing anything, have we gone too far, are we making a statement?

Nikki: If you kind of go back to the formation, the reasons for forming make sense in relation to different people that make it up... certain people were invited because of what they do anyway, and this that and the other, and certain people remain within it because of

that. And the reason those initial discussions weren't taken up was because it didn't make any sense or it didn't work within an internal logic of the project, the group, or whatever to do any of those things because they were too connected to things that were outside of itself. So in terms of, if there is this kind of thing that it's going towards, or this goal, or this point or whatever, it has to make sense from within itself rather than referring back to these things that are outside of it, in terms of the things we discussed in the first meeting..

Dan: The project versus group thing's quite interesting, and those things are potential projects, and therefore, the things we discussed at the start, they're potential projects for the group or members of the group to take up.

Stuart: Going back to what Matt said about the difference between actively not doing anything and passively not doing anything, I think that actively not doing anything at the moment is what we're doing, and that's what the project is, that's what the group is doing, the group is actively not doing anything.

Dan: The group is actively not doing a project?

Stuart: Yeah, there is a project.

Dan: But I'm not sure how conscious we all are that we're doing that.

Ellie: Is the AGM a project? I mean organising it was certainly a project. Getting everybody to sign up.

Stuart: Coz I don't think we decided at any point that we were never going to do anything.

Nikki: It has been raised at previous meetings and on the forum that we're actively not saying that we're not going to do something, we're just not doing anything right at this moment. We are doing something, but we're not doing a kind of outcome or a kind of..

Ana: Somethings have been started, like the writing, but it didn't really feel right did it? It kind of faded away.

Ellie: I think this is what we do best, sit around and talk to be honest. That's why we keep coming back to it.

Ana: Not in a bad way

Stuart: I think it valuable because it's not something that usually occurs, you don't normally have a group sit around and be this kind of introspective, without suddenly going "shit lets do something so we can stop be this introspective".

Ellie: So we've got some deadlines or something.

Stuart: Potentially there's some useful insights could come out of it, about groups, yeah group working. Might not happen, might be pointless.

Ellie: We're relying on you and your dissertation to bring out those insight Stu and take them to the world.

Stuart: You don't want to do that.

Ellie: Show the world what we've achieved.

Stuart: I think that would be a mistake.

Zero Point AGM 1D transcript

Ana – Doing nothing is something that you have to make space for, because it almost gives you a spur to do other things – if you take time out, you don't just need to think what's the point of this for the ZP group, but what's it adding to the rest of my practice? I think that it is doing something useful, and maybe I can't pin down what that is, but its useful enough for me to carry on wanting to do it.

Stuart – Yeah, well I think just in terms of the Red Line collaboration that we're involved in as well. I think that, that wouldn't have developed in the way that it did if it wasn't for the ZP group, because we went on this kind of research trip with a firm idea, or at least a relatively firm idea of this project that we wanted to do and then because of discussions here and because of stuff that was going on in our thinking – we went, hold on no, lets revert back to position where we haven't decided a project in advance – so that we are all an equal hierarchical footing. I am not sure that it would have developed in the way that it did if it hadn't been for this project.

Ellie – Wow.

Niki – Did that decision make perfect sense in relation to the research trip that we made, irrespective of whether ZP existed?

Stuart – I think it informed out thinking.

Niki – Perhaps.

Matt – I think that it is interesting that, that idea of going back to that position where nothing has been decided creates a kind of unity within the group, people feel more on board, more equally part of the group, and that's maybe why it has lasted a year – despite the fact that we haven't really done that much, that's fairly impressive.

[Laughter]

Ellie – Pat on the backs all round, we are meant to be doing pats on the back later...

Stuart – Pats on the back?

[Laughter]

Stuart – Literally, we stand in a circle...

Ellie – It's part of the anniversary celebrations...

Stuart – Is it? Where's the agenda item for that?

[Laughter]

Ellie – We deserve them after a whole year...

[Laughter]

Stuart – Have you worked out an itinerary and everything?

[Laughter]

Ellie – All the props are hidden in my bag...

Stuart – Are we finished with what's the point of ZP?

Ellie – That's been over 20 minutes...

Dan – Has it?

Ellie – Yeah.

Matt – Time flies.

Dan – I just wonder how much of a consensus there is among the eight people involved, that we are actively doing nothing. I think that was one of the most interesting points from that discussion that could be expanded on: are we all actively aware that we are in the same position, how at the forefront of our consciousness is that, that is something that you can latch on to, to stop yourself getting frustrated about the fact that you feel that you should be doing something.

Ellie – Or maybe that you shouldn't be going to do that, because you're actively doing nothing when you could be staying at home.

Niki – But it is an odd comment, because we are doing something, like there is something and it's what this something means and it's this publicly visible thing that most people assume constitutes doing something. By actually being...

Stuart – Well that's number two on the agenda, something or nothing, isn't it?

Dan – Well lets move onto that...

Ana – Yeah, go on then. Which is better, something or nothing?

Ellie – That question I think, doesn't really relate to ZP does it? It's more of a general question, isn't it? A broader philosophical question...

Stuart – I think it is an interesting question, because of the way it is structured you can answer nothing but mean both.

Ellie – Yeah.

Stuart – Because it's like "which is better? Something or nothing?" Well nothing is better, there equal... you can click nothing meaning that they're both equal

[Mumbled talking and laughter]

Ellie – "Which is better? Something or nothing?" So you click nothing...

Dan – Nothing is better...

Stuart – Because nothing is better because they're equal

Ellie – Nothing's better than something...

Stuart – Nothing, it's like nothing meaning neither basically...

Ellie – OK

Stuart – I was just being stupid...

Ellie – But, no it's a good point. When I think about it, I think about this pen which I was given and as soon as I found out there was a better one I didn't want it any more, and therefore was it better to not have been given the pen in the first place...

Dan – Or would it have been better to have not been told there was a better one?

Ellie – Sometimes I think back to all the Christmas's that have ever been and all the shit presents that I have been given, and generally don't want them – and I think that generally I would be happier, I wouldn't have the guilt, and the having to pretend that you like them and all of that stuff if you hadn't been given it in the first place. So that's why I voted for nothing.

Niki – Yeah, but when I'm thinking about something or nothing, the idea of presents doesn't really go through my head – it's that question of what do you want...?

Dan – It's not just about presents, it's about like objects or physical things that are in your life as clutter...

Niki – Yeah, like if you break it down into that then maybe I'd be more likely to vote nothing – but I voted something, because I would rather work towards something – because nothing to me means like its whatever... you still get stuff coming into your life, but it's not something that you are going for.

Ellie – Is it like the half full or half empty glass? Does what you vote say something about your personality?

Dan – Perhaps... only Dave might know...

Ellie – As soon as I saw that question, I thought: Dave would vote nothing, but I don't know now...

Stuart – It's a very difficult concept...

Ana – Yeah, what do you mean by nothing?

Ellie – Well I related it to my pen, and being given the gift of the pen...

Dan – Well I think that, that objective theory is problematic, because you are thinking in terms of objects...

Ellie – If you were relating it to Arts Council funding...

[Laughter]

Stuart – The something is better than nothing...

Dan – You can always do something with something, but you can't do anything with nothing.

Stuart – If you relate it to something like Zen Buddhism, then nothing is better, but then you have to get rid of that nothing as well.

Matt – Just out of interest can we take a vote?

Ellie – If you related it to dust then I'd say nothing..

Niki – Something.

Dan – Yeah, I'd vote something

Ellie – Well I said nothing to begin with, so I'd better stick with it

Matt – I'd go with something

Ana – Yeah, I'd go for something as well, that's just because when I start thinking of something or nothing, nothing as in absolutely nothing, that there has never been anything actually existing ever...

Ellie – In the world...is that what you thought?

Ana – Yeah, that's what I mean...

Ellie – so you thought the world didn't exist...

Ana – Not just the world, anything.

Ellie – Yeah, like the universe and particles...

Stuart – Nothing, just not even time... or space, just nothing...

Ellie – Allright then, nothing is sounding quite...

[Laughter]

Stuart – It just depends how you frame the question, if you kind of go like nothing...

Dan – Even the stuff that came before the Big Bang...

Stuart – There was nothing...

Ellie – Not even God.

Dan – Even that nothing.

Ellie – See I really want to know what Dave would have said...

Dan – Dave voted for nothing, I think...

Ellie – NO that was me that voted for nothing...

Niki – I don't think that Dave voted.

Matt – I think that there is something defeatist about voting for something.

Ellie – There is something very optimistic about voting for something.

Ana – Nothing, the kind of nothing that we are doing here is part of something.

Ellie – What did you vote Stuart?

Stuart – I said something, in the context of that discussion and what I've kind of, what I'm assuming the question, how the question was framed – I said something.

Ellie – I'm going to text Dave.

Stuart – But there are contexts where I would answer the opposite.

Matt – I get something out of ZP, and that's good enough...

Stuart – Yeah, But even in the context of, I brought up Zen Buddhism – like even in that context, you have to have the something to arrive at the nothing, and you have to have the nothing in order to get rid of that, so where I'm currently at mentally I would prefer something but I might develop into something else...

Ellie – Does something always come with baggage attached, that would probably be my question?

Stuart – A rucksack.

Ellie – Does something always come with... responsibility – by choosing nothing are you...

Ana – I don't think you are getting rid of responsibility by choosing nothing.

Ellie – You're not?

Ana – No...

Stuart – You're just expressing a desire not to have any responsibility.

Ellie – That would be me then.

Matt – But then you'd still have desire

Stuart – You don't always get what you vote for though do you?

Ellie – What is nihilism? is it when you destroy everything? or that you want to destroy everything?

Stuart – That's probably one interpretation of it, but isn't it just not believing in anything?

Ana – Apart for the belief not to believe in anything... I suppose...

Dan – It's believing in nothing but nihilism.

Ellie – But if you were a real nihilist, then someone would have said you were a nihilist...

Stuart – So are you a nihilist, no...

[Laughter]

Ellie – I think you've got to be an active nihilist...

Stuart – You can't just passively not believe.

Ana – I'm not writing anything down.

Stuart – Well hopefully it's recording, might go as far as to transcribe it.

Ana – Where are you going to find the time for that?

Dan – Get one of your students to do it.

Stuart – One of my students, I don't have any students, I am a student.

Niki – You should go around the degree level and create some kind of a following, people to help you out with your projects.

Dan – Get an intern.

Stuart – Transcribing stuff is difficult anyway, you know if you're having a conversation rather than someone just delivering a lecture, then people talk over each other... so you have to be able to grasp what someone is saying even though they may have only said three words.

Ellie – So... what is better, something or nothing?

Dan – Only you're in the nothing camp Ellie.

Ellie – But I think Dave is, Dave likes to think he hates everything, but he's not he's like a cuddly teddy bear really – so he would say nothing but not mean it.

Stuart – Is that a fair assessment...

Dan – What of Dave?

Niki – It is a fair assessment that he like to make out that he doesn't like things, and that nobody likes him, but really...

Ellie – My mum likes him.

Dan – I have never known anyone that doesn't like Dave...

Niki – But he will make out that he is the most unsociable person, and this that and the other.

Matt – How we doing for time?

Dan – I am happy to move on.

Ellie – But we have only been talking about this one for 12 minutes...

Stuart – But we went over last time.

Ellie – We're still on schedule, we will still have 10 minutes at the end to wrap up.

Ana – Right next one is, what would make ZP a priority?

Dan – It came out of the recent situation really... so I was kind of prompted by that. That question is assuming that it isn't a priority for everybody. Is it ever going to be a priority? It's a question with lots of questions attached.

Ellie – And is it also assuming that ZP needs to be a priority?

Ana – Do you mean at the top of the list? The priority.

Dan – Maybe it should be more of a priority, like what would raise it stakes?

Ellie – But Niki's got it on his website, it's one of his projects he's working on.

Niki – Yeah, it on, depends on how you view things but it's on a par with Reactor – it's got its one page, it's got its photograph, a text – and a lot more people ask me about ZP than they do about Reactor, obviously people already know about Reactor and therefore don't ask me about Reactor – but people are often asking what is it? What are you doing? And why are you doing that? Pelle was asking me while he was across, he was quizzing me about it.

Ellie – I talked about it to some people the other day... in a proud way

[Laughter]

Dan – And is it ever going to be, in a ridiculous sense how high can it realistically climb up the list of priorities?

Niki – It can realistically climb right to the top of the list of priorities, there is no reason why not.

Ana – I mean currently it is our priority, because we are here in the meeting.

Ellie – That is a very good point.

Matt – Realistically, there are probably factors that will prevent it climbing right to the top... if we had more time and money...

Stuart – It would be nice not to have to worry about having to pay to get to meetings.

Dan – Yeah, that would be nice...

Ellie – Yeah, especially seeing as though Dan had to pay thirty quid

Matt – Well it would change the nature of it...

Stuart – But maybe that is something that changes its priority? Like if we were getting paid expenses, if not actually being paid to do the project, but just getting paid expenses.

Dan – Yeah, I think that always makes a difference to how people view the project you're involved in...

Niki – There is no reason why it couldn't find some money from somewhere.

Ellie – But how would you write that funding application? Stuart would have to write it...

[Laughter]

Stuart – I couldn't write it because it is part of my research, I wouldn't be eligible funding...

Ellie – But the University has funded our biscuits – which was a good thing.

Dan – NAN New Collaborations bursary.

Stuart – That's a thing is it, how much is that?

Niki – £2K

Ellie – Now that Jonathan has left are we more or less likely to get the funding?

Dan – More likely, as Jonathan could deal with the application...

[Laughter and mobile phone beeps]

Ellie – Here we go, who's taking bets on what it says? I haven't checked it yet.

Dan – I'd say he is going to say nothing.

Stuart – I think he is going to say something.

Ana – Do we have to choose?

Ellie – Yeah.

Ana – Nothing.

Ellie – Nothing, I know that boy.

Dan – Do you think that was all part of his plan for not coming to the meeting...

Ellie – It's an elaborate performance maybe...

Stuart – Well I think we should consider applying for some money for it then...

Ellie – To make it more of a priority?

Stuart – Lets say that we decide that we want to carry on with the project and that we are all still interested in the project...

Ellie – I'm not so sure, because when I'm... you know I'm organising this trip to Documenta? And everyone's paying their own bit, so when we go we will not have any responsibility to anyone – there's no ACE report, there's no, there's nothing – we just go and have a fucking brilliant time!

Niki – But surely you still have the responsibility because you're organising it Ellie?

Ellie – Yeah, but I renounce responsibility as soon as I get on the bus...

Niki – But if somebody doesn't turn up, you're never going to get away from it.

Ellie – Yeah, but for all the other people – I find that really liberating, the fact that I get on that bus and it's an art project but I don't have to jump through any hoops – and that's what ZP is at the moment, and that's the whole reason why I like it.

Dan – It's a difficult one as to whether to apply for money or not, because the project could exist in a completely different sense, where you know, it didn't – you could eliminate the physical meetings in theory and for it to continue as a group, but it only has its meetings online – and therefore you eliminate the overheads.

Stuart – I think it would fold pretty quickly if it was just online, I think it relies quite heavily at the moment on us meeting.

Niki – Yeah, like... if it was one or the other then I would apply for money – because I don't really see any reason why I need to pay out for what I do...

[Laughter]

Niki – But it wouldn't make a significant difference in terms of whether I consider it to be a priority or not, for me the main thing with priority is about how I feel about the other people who are involved in it, as soon as I see that there is a shared prioritisation of something, or shared belief, or a shared desire to continue it – however you want to describe those things then that immediately raises it up my list of priorities. If people don't turn up to the meetings, don't turn up to the forum, don't show any desire for the thing to continue then it's no longer a group, no longer a collaboration and therefore should just fall off the bottom – because...

Ellie – So it depends on the other people? So other people help to prioritise it...

Niki – It is no different from any other, if you are in a group and you're doing all the work then it's no longer a collaboration – and maybe there's an element of it that you can carry on but it isn't that thing, and therefore that thing just...

Ellie – So if you were to apply for funding – if you were to go to NAN...

Stuart – I just don't think you'd get the money through ACE because there's no outputs, and that's the one thing with the NAN bursaries that they're a lot more open in terms of doing something different, or experimental.

Ellie – And how much work do you have to do to get £2K, what's the application like?

Niki – It is quite simple.

Ellie – Because, I've done the £500 one and that was a piece of piss, like writing one paragraph.

Stuart – I think it's the same kind of thing.

Niki – It is not much longer than the £500, it was a two-page document – and top marks for ours, 20 out of 20.

Stuart – I don't think it is a decision for now, but it is something to consider.

Ellie – They might not go on forever...

Dan – Yeah, it was just the first thing that came to mind as realistic to get something...

Niki – There is a deadline for the £500 one coming up in the next few months, and £500 would last a certain amount, and what are we doing? We are 'going and seeing'...

Stuart – So would that mean, if you got the £500 that you can't apply for the other one?

Ellie – £500 would last a long time wouldn't it? How much does it cost for you to get to Nottingham?

Ana - £12 each

Matt - £19 return

Ellie – So £500 would potentially last us a year, but then we'd find the most cost-effective way – well actually how many of us are in Nottingham now? Just me, you and Dave?

Niki – Yeah, if Dave's still involved.

Ana – Pam says that nothing is something.

Dan – That's not answering the question.

Ana – I know.

Stuart – That's what I said before committing to one answer or the other, isn't it?

Matt - Showing a lack of commitment.

[Laughter]

Niki – I kind of feel like ZP has been on a kind of level priority for me, and the major dips in priority are fairly sort of temporary – either because of something that is exterior to it, or turning up to a meeting – those have been major dips in priority – turning up to a meeting and nobody, or more to do with people saying they were going to be there and not being there, in a very kind of temporary sense diminishes the priority – there are those points where I could just go, yeah that's it – but other than that it hasn't been on a particular increase or a particular decrease.

Ellie – I would say that it has increased in my priorities in the run up to the anniversary celebrations – since we had that meeting and we decided that...

Stuart – But I think it was too big a gap, I think that we should have arranged an extra meeting – it was about two months ago...

Niki – We talked about having one in Sheffield but then never arranged it.

Stuart – And I think it was useful to have that gap in a way, because it just shows that that's too long a gap – it needs to be every month really, I'd say every four weeks or a month.

Matt – If you want one at Sheffield next, you can have one at Bloc because the space will be empty.

Dan – Is Sheffield more central to all of our locations?

Stuart – It is easy enough to get to for us, it takes about the same time as Nottingham.

Niki – It's an hour from Nottingham.

Dan – It takes about an hour from Manchester as well, so maybe it is the most central location – but I don't think that should mean that all meetings are in the same place.

Stuart – Especially if we are paying out of our own pockets, it makes sense for it to be in different locations each time so that the costs are spread between us – I don't have any objection to there being a meeting in Manchester at some point.

Niki – Yeah, I don't think anyone could object to a meeting being anywhere, because otherwise it is saying that it is OK for other people to travel but its not OK for me – I can only come if the meeting is in Nottingham.

Matt – maybe we should attempt to rotate it then.

Ana – Right what differentiates ZP from social club?

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Niki [probably]: Well, I mean it's kind of like anything

(laughter)

Ellie: No it's more ... [?] ...which was inspired by Jonathan's email, implying that social club was not a worthwhile way to spend time. and then also implying that Zero Point was a social club.

Dan: I think he was saying that it has a social club aspect, because what he was saying his reason were more for meeting people than - which is kind of the point of Zero Point at the moment anyway – meeting up with people to talk about things. I think the main difference from a social club is that we don't sit and discuss our personal lives, things we're doing outside of Zero Point. Most of the meeting are about...

Matt: Maybe that's to do with the way we see the time we're spending as well. It's not personal time... it's for... it's work time.

Ellie: I would relate it to a book club, because a book club is a social thing yet you don't talk about your personal lives. You talk about a specific book.

Dan: It's more of a discussion group, there

Stuart: There's a social element to it, definitely. Because otherwise, there'd be no reason to not meet physically. You know, It could all be done online.

Niki: But surely with any group of people there is a social element. There's no getting away from it.

Ellie: Yeah, collaboration is a social activity.

Dan: But social club makes it sound like the social element is...

Niki: It's just such crap... "social club"... if that's what it is... then...

Ellie: Yeah, but what're the other social clubs you go to, Niki? This is top on your list...

Niki: Well, oh yeah, The Liberal Club up the road from the studio on a Friday night.

Ellie: The Conservative Club?

Dan: It's just going down to the pub really, isn't it? A 'social club' is just going down to the pub, but your pub is a 'club'. That's what social clubs do.

Ellie: No because you've got things like...

Stuart: Social clubs is organised by definition outside of work. And this is very much 'work'.

Ellie: Yeah, but that's because we're artists and there aren't so many jobs.

Ana: It's still true.

Matt: But we've allocated the time after this meeting to social time. We clearly have to differentiate those, somehow.

Niki: We also talked about that thing of co-ordinating it with openings and that kind of thing so that there was this chance for people could get to know each other in a different way. But saying that the meeting is the thing. That's what we're going for and if you can combine it in a way that allows the other things to happen as well, then fine, but...

Ellie: But previously as some meetings I've deliberately or undeliberately drifted off the point and talked about other things that I was just interested in talking about at the time and have felt guilty for doing that but also felt that other people were annoyed at me for doing that. But in this meeting I haven't done that really. Everything I've talked about at this meeting is relevant, points on the agenda. And I think that might be because of the structure of this meeting.

Stuart: I don't think it's a point – I mean a problem - wandering off the point and discussing other things during a meeting. Because that just opens up space within the meeting for people to then think of the next thing to say. So you're not getting things all just following on after another necessarily. As long as you come back to the what the point of the actual... what the reason for having the meeting is... I think it's ok to have those little gaps.

Ellie: But I think the fact that the other meetings have been in a pub makes it seem more like a social club and the fact that this is very formal is a good thing.

Stuart: Well, I think it's good to vary it. Because we did have one meeting where we went for dinner, and I didn't think that was very good. I didn't think it worked very well.

Ellie: I liked it.

Stuart: It was a very nice meal and it was very sociable but I don't think it made for a very good meeting.

Ellie: I can't remember a single thing we talked about.

Stuart: Enough said.

Ellie: Although we did tape that one... I can remember what I had for my dinner, though. I had okra.

Stuart: No we didn't tape it because the mini disc didn't work.

Ellie: Awww... did you have beetroot? It was nice... So you think we should continue to vary the locations for meetings? Or should we always look for somewhere that is...

Dan: It seems like we more or less avoid having meals at meetings over the last year.

Stuart: That's the only thing that hasn't worked.

Dan: I think it's ok in the pub. It does work in the pub but it is easier to get distracted because of the nature of the space. So it's more likely that you are going to wander off the point.

Stuart: You just get a different conversation. It comes from a different place inside you if you're...

Niki: You know, in any, like, collaboration meeting sort of thing it drifts off the point, because that's the way the people's minds work. And somehow it's allowed within those situations. Whereas if your solicitor or whatever... or you just mention, like dogs. I know this funny story about dogs... You're just not...

Ellie: And you're paying them £100 an hour...

Niki: And it's also that thing about, from past experience that you know sometimes drifting off the point actually come up with...

Dan: With something worthwhile.

Niki: ...something that does then feed into what you're talking about

Dan: Yeah, maybe that's certainly what we've learned from Reactor meetings. You know, you've got to limit that. And if it's going too far, then you have to be conscious, be aware enough of it to bring it back

Ellie: Yeah, bring it back.

Dan: To cut it off and just... 'actually I don't want to talk about that' and you have to be able to do that in the situation. So you have to be fairly familiar with people to be able to do that.

Niki: Yeah, it's that kind of, that abruptness and the kind of way that it works that you wouldn't do within a social situation. Because if somebody's talking to you about something then you've agreed to...

(indistinguishable talking & laughter)

Niki: ...you know, you don't want to hear about

(indistinguishable talking & laughter)

Stuart: I do that all the time

(laughter)

Dan: I've had enough of that now.

Ana: Or just walk off.

Ellie: I think so far, I don't want to speak too soon but I think today's meeting's been quite successful. And I don't know if that's a result of the room. Or the agenda. Or just the build up, the anticipation of the meeting, which is different.

Dan: Well I think recently with the lack of meetings recently, we have kind of built up. There's a lot of things to talk about.

Matt: Why do you say it's successful?

Ellie: 'Cos we're all sitting around talking about...

Matt: But are we hitting our goals.

Ellie: For me, we're achieving.

(laughter)

Ellie: This is what achievement feels like... But I think that maybe... I mean it's weird because I actually enjoyed the other meetings when I just talked about, like... my new gloves... what I ate for lunch. I quite enjoyed those meetings as well. But maybe I'm being surprised that I'm enjoying this meeting... I don't know what I'm talking about, actually.

Matt: So, can we speculate on Jonathan and was that his... are we to believe that was his main reason for coming to the meetings?

Ellie: 'Cos he's just a lonely kind of guy.

Matt: Right, he goes to discussion and things

Dan: Well he did say that, as I said earlier, that he does feel intellectually interested in the collaboration.

Matt: But...that's is kind of what you need...

Dan [simultaneously]: But it kind of goes against...

Matt: ... in order to carry on. But then other commitments, or...

Niki: I think the way that Jonathan deals with kind of like, the way he kind of like, makes decisions in a different way to uh... well obviously everybody makes decisions in different ways but he has a particular way of kind of like saying 'No, I'm not gonna do that. I'm gonna do this instead.' And I think it's just an accumulation of other things that are going on that he's kind of felt it necessary to kind of make that decision. That somehow he's kind of had to make it. And I'm not sure that it's really kind of reflective of either an interest in the project or this kind of social thing.

Stuart: Something that occurs to me is that... a possible issue we might want to consider in relation to him saying he's still intellectually interested in it, is that if someone decides they haven't got time and they make a decision like that and says that 'I'm not gonna be involved in the project anymore' and then in 3 months time they change their mind... Is that, is that the same as someone who's never been involved in the project wanting to join? In that, it sets up a hierarchy that we want to avoid? And they can't rejoin.

Ellie: I would have a problem with him rejoining.

Dan: Yeah, I don't think he, in this case...

Stuart [simultaneously]: Yeah, maybe he wouldn't want to, but...

Dan: Yeah, I kind of... yeah...

Stuart: 'Cos like someone like Bruce for instance who had been previously a member of the group, suddenly decided he was interested in it again... has he specifically declared that he's not interested and didn't want to be in it?

Ellie: I think he did, didn't he?

Dan: Yeah, I think he did. I remember an email. Him and Hannah both...

Stuart: So if he turned around and said he is interested in it again now.

Dan: I don't think that'd be acceptable.

(quiet laughter)

Stuart: Well, that's why I asked the question, yeah? I agree. I think if you've decided to excommunicate yourself, that's it.

Dan: Yeah, you cut yourself off...

Ellie: Yeah, but when somebody leaves the group...

Dan: But Jonathan could've dealt with that in a very different way. Rather than just cutting all ties he could have said 'You know, I'm not gonna be able to... for a little while and I'm gonna sort of think about it in a different way and I might contribute on the forum from time to time, but I'm probably not going to be at the full front of the group...

Ellie: But the way in which

Dan: But that would be sort of acceptable because we haven't, like, there's no 'You miss 5 meetings and you're out' sort of thing. There's no kind of hard and fast rules like that.

Ellie: The way in which Jonathan left, though, and also the way in which Bruce left, and Hannah left... I can't personally help but take a small amount of offence to the fact that they are leaving a group that I'm involved in.

(laughter)

Dan: This is personal.

Ellie: I can't help but take a small amount of personal offence to it.... just a tiny weeny bit. So then I would say 'That is it. You're not joining again. You have said you don't want to have anything to do with it. Piss off.'

(laughter)

Ellie: That would be my take on the matter. I do find Bruce's attitude quite offensive.

(laughter)

Dan: In general?

(laughter)

Niki: ...and share in this conversation

Ellie: But Bruce also, apparently did the same thing about coming on a trip that I'm organising, which I know I'm not meant to be talking about. But he... Candice overheard a conversation between him and Hannah debating whether it was a worthwhile... way to spend... whether it would be worthwhile or not. And they had a big debate and decided that it wouldn't.

Dan: Well, it's their loss.

Ellie: But I still can't help but to take it a little bit personally.

Dan: Well, it affect everybody in a different way.

Niki: Well, it's a rejection isn't it? Whichever way you look at it, it's a rejection of the, uh, group.

Ellie: Exactly.

Niki: You know, you're all part of the group. You can take it in various levels of way but that's what it is.

Ellie: And I also find a similar scaled down personal offence when people don't come to the meeting. Well, like you do. Like, I was annoyed, which is why I didn't talk to him as soon as he told me he wasn't coming...

Dan: You're like "Rrrrrr"

(laughter)

Dan: Did you make one of those noises when you went out the door?

(laughter)

Niki: And the walk through the train station was helped in some way by the added uh, kind of...

Ellie: Hmm...

Stuart: Next.

Ellie: The next point, yeah.

Niki: So does anybody think it is a social club?

Ellie: For me it has social aspects. I'm...

Dan: Everything has social aspects...

Ellie: I'm attracted to it...

Dan: ...when you're in a group

Ellie: Yeah that's why I'm attracted to it because I get to talk to lots of people. Normally I just sit and type on my computer all day. But this... gets me out of the house. And gets me in a discussion.

Dan: Yeah, that's what we were talking about earlier.

Matt: A structured social environment isn't it?

Stuart: That's just... that's why it may be... one reason why you prefer to work with other people rather than just on your own sometimes. But that doesn't make it a social club. It just means it's collaborative.

Dan: What you're describing goes back to the same point as was kind of raised earlier on that, like uh...

Matt: If you just came to the meetings and there wasn't any sort of social activity, organised around it would you still come?

Ellie: Yeah, I have socialised with nearly everyone that's here anyway, so... we sort of socialise, haven't we Matt?

(laughter)

Ellie: ...chatted to you. But... at the Leicester private view for a bit.

Matt: True.

Ellie: But , so, I don't know. I think if I was with a group of people I didn't know before I think it'd be different.

Niki: But in any collaboration you're gonna get to know people aren't you, because you're never gonna get past a certain stage without doing that.

Ellie: But it would be very different if nobody knew each other from the beginning. And maybe things would have a different tone to it.

Stuart: Woul be a different group, yes.

Matt: Or, you know, if there was different numbers and you have the same purpose, perhaps. If there were different people each time. That'd be very different.

Stuart: Kind of like, if it was in a board room everytime, rather than, like

Matt: Yeah, if you could write down what the group did and it was just a different collection of people each time.

Stuart: If we had an agenda for each meeting and has to have somebody who's like the chairperson and everything's done like that in a very structured way. It'd be very different. But there'd still be a social element to it, wouldn't there? 'Cos you still have to deal with other people's psyches.

Niki: Yeah, but sociability is kind of drummed into people from a kind of early age about what they kind of should do in kind of situations and this that and the other. And a lot of people can't help but do it, even if the situation doesn't really require it, or you know, whatever... there is that kind of space that that happens.

Ellie: Being courteous, you mean? ... So what was the question? Is it a 'social group'? or a 'social club'?

Ana: What differentiates it from a 'social club'?

Ellie: Ok.

Stuart: I think we've begun to answer that question.

Ana: She needs more info.

Stuart: Who?

Ana: Pam. Just pick one, Pam. I said it was a vote already. "Are you asking do I think we should do something or nothing? or is it a general feeling of something's better than nothing? And in what context?"

(laughter)

Niki: Yeah, respond to that by text.

Stuart: See that's someone who obviously actually wants to be here, because she's trying to engage with it.

Ellie: But what..

Stuart: But she's obviously like... its not been physically possible for her to get here. Whereas that, is someone who doesn't really want to be here.

Ellie: What's this?

(laughter)

Ellie: ...nothing

(laughter)

Stuart: That's quite a difference. But then it might be that he's just not quite so... I wouldn't say loquacious... that's not my word.

Matt: Possibly

Ellie: Matt, you said something about what differentiates it from a social group. What did you say? I've completely forgotten.

Dan: Are we still on Jonathan's question? or have we moved on?

Niki: Um... Jonathan's question?!

Dan: Oh no, Ellie's question...

(general undistinguishable noise)

Ellie: Was it just the fact that we don't talk about personal things? Is that it?

Dan: Well, it differentiates it from a social group. It's worse.

Stuart: It's work. It's like the social club the primary focus is...

Dan: Recreational

Stuart: ...recreation. And sociability. And this, although it does have a social element, it's work.

Ellie: It's to do with that thing of timetabling isn't it? Like reading the newspaper... isn't work.

Stuart [simultaneously]: is work

Ellie: Is it work?

Stuart: This is. This is work.

Dan: Depends why you're reading the newspaper.

Stuart: Yeah, if you're researching. Then it's work.

Dan: Yeah, if you're researching.

Stuart: But if you're just reading it to pass time, then it's...

Dan: 'Cos you've got nothing else to do and you're sat next to a newspaper on the train. And it's either read the newspaper or stare out the window and you choose to read your newspaper. That's not work... Unless you decided that, as part of your work, that whenever you find a newspaper on a train...

(laughter)

Dan: ... you'll pick it up and read it.

Matt: There's something quite uncomfortable about situations like that where you're forced into recreational activity. Not like being on a train, stuck on a train, and you have to read a newspaper. Or you're in a pub and someone's next to you... like, start a conversation with

them. So, there's not necessarily, um, a comfortable situation and I don't think social activities are necessarily more comfortable than non-social activity, in a way.

Ellie: I think you're right. Like it would be interesting to see the contrast between the AGM and the anniversary celebration.

Matt: I'm dreading it.

(laughter)

Ellie: Yeah, it is gonna be weird. Isn't it? Very weird.

Stuart: Can we move on?

Dan: Yeah.

Stuart: Point M. Currently, could Zero Point be described as anything more than a discussion group? What would it be in the future?

Niki: Well, it could be described as something else other than a discussion group. Because it has. In that, it's been compared to a social club and... yeah, it's been called...

Dan: We decided, though, that that's not a very good comparison.

Ellie and Dan (at same time): I mean discussion group...

Dan: ...is closer. Yeah, it is getting closer. But the topics that we discuss aren't kind of open ended.

Matt: Yeah

Dan: 'Cos a discussion group, well I'm not really very sure 'cos I've never attended a discussion group but...

Ellie: like a book club

Dan: Yeah, it'd be like a book club, in that they'd have a topic to discuss. Or a book to discuss, whereas we have... well, we do... but it's always the same point, which is Zero Point to discuss. And that's...

Ana: I don't think it's necessarily...

Dan: I mean what if we chose a different topic to discuss, like we chose to come to the next meeting and discuss... dogs. You know, that'd probably put a lot of people off.

Ellie: Well I... When I suggested that everyone bring a point to the agenda, it might've been that people brought points that were related to Zero Point.

Dan: That shows that everyone is interested in just talking about the group though.

Ellie: But that's why I thought that Dave's point was quite interesting because it was kind of related to Zero Point. You could relate the discussion to Zero Point but it was broader in a way.

Matt: Yeah, I wonder if we'll come back to the second part of the question in the future. If we'll just get bored of talking about what the group is, and you need to find something else.

Niki: If there's a point which the group, as an entity, is bored with that, or that being all that it is, then within it's kind of internal logic, it would make sense that you actually do do something. And we've ignored the fact that we're not, purposefully not doing anything, permanently. And therefore there's any chance that something else does happen as part of it.

Matt: I suppose my question is kind of, getting around to the idea of how does the group change, and like how does it, does it progress, or how does it develop. Is that just kind of through continually talking and moving on? or is there other interventions needed in order to kind of, um, change what we did.

Ana: I do quite like the way that there's often this feeling that something should be done. But then it just dissipates back to being, kind of about itself. And that being enough.

Matt: Yeah I mean, well, for instance, like Jonathan leaving's created quite a lot of discussion at the start of the meeting today and maybe challenged what the group is and things like that, how we think about ourselves. And that's not, uh, in a way it's not, that's not through discussion. He's done something different and it's moved something on in a different direction.

Ana: New stuff does tend to come up... in a way.

Matt: Oh, it will wouldn't it?

Niki: It's that thing that you said that on a number of occasions there has been that kind of... that people are kind of just saying something to whether if anybody goes for it, or not. It's not like, really an idea for something but its just kind of pushing it slightly more in that direction, and um, like you say, it kind of like, settles back down, and people go 'Oh that isn't what it's about'. But surely there could be a point, or there might be a point where somebody suggests something and then everybody just immediately starts talking about it to the point where you actually, you know... so those things you interject... you know somebody could come to the next meeting with like a nice written up proposal. This is where, you know, I think Zero Point should kind of propose some this to that... and everybody goes 'Yeah that's great. Yeah, let's do that'

Stuart: Well, I think it'd be more likely that it would, that it would turn into about 3 meetings worth of discussion about why we should bother doing that, or not bother doing it.

Matt: Well, another thing is just your research about your Phd and does that change the nature of, does that make it anything more than a discussion group? Are we being observed? Are we, you know...

Ellie: ...specimens?

Dan [probably]: Rats.

Stuart: Yeah, I know what you mean... I'm trying to, I'm trying not to try and affect my, uh, position at all...

Ana: Your research is very much about being part of what you're observing...

Stuart: It's very important that I let you know that it, uh, was part of my research. And not like I was here as a group member and not telling you that I was writing up about it.

Ellie: That's why I asked you if you feel more committed to it, because you're writing about it... because that in a sense gives you more purpose than anybody else

Stuart: No, I don't think it does... because um...

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Niki Because, if it ends, then that's still something to write about.

Stuart Exactly. I'm as committed to it as I would be if I wasn't writing about it, let's put it that way.

Dan Maybe I could be writing about it

Stuart Anyone CAN, because we're all kind of, I assume, interested in...

Dan It would only be the same as me kind of thinking about it

Stuart Yeah, it's just

Dan Making my own personal notes maybe, it's just yours might be more likely to get published possibly

Stuart Possibly, but, you know, it might be that I end up deciding that it's not relevant to the rest of my research and that I'll carry on with the group even if it doesn't end up getting included in the writing

Niki The two aren't inextricably, kind of, linked?

Stuart No, no

Niki It can di... [not sure what Niki said here]

Stuart You know, in the research I'm looking at four different collaborative groupings I'm involved in and this is one of them, but like, as Niki said, if it fails and the project stops, then that will give me a bunch of

Dan Material

Stuart data that I can analyse and try and figure out why it failed, and hopefully that will be some useful knowledge, and then that would get made available

Dan Yeah, I anticipate, one projection is that I think we'll all get bored of talking about ourselves eventually. So I think the discussion will change

Stuart I think it has changed. I think it's in a constant state of, you know, it will kind of develop in a direction, then it will kind of go, "Hmm that's not so interesting", and it will kind of... I've got a mental picture of like a kind of, when a plant gets pot bound, you take it out and it's like there's no soil left in there, it's all roots. I just kind of imagine that at some point it's going to be like that. It will be so

Dan We'll have to re-plant it

Ellie Every discussion

Stuart Every discussion has gone on about every possible aspect of the group that there's only two things that could happen; One of which is that

Ellie The roots pop out

Stuart it'll just die, and the other is that the roots will come out in some direction, but until we get to that point, I'm reluctant to dictate what direction the roots come out in.

Ana Yeah, I think it will naturally happen when it's the right time

Stuart And it will be interesting to see when that happens and what it is, and if it doesn't and the project just dies, then that's

Dan But then there are always going to be these coincidental factors that then provide this other stimulus, like somebody leaving, something Stuart's written and posted on the site, or

Ana But that's part of the process, it's not really outside of that. Sorry.

Dan Yeah

Matt The nature of discussion really is fairly inclusive isn't it?... in terms of what you can bring to it, unless you want to turn it into some kind of dance group or something (all laugh), dance troupe!

Dan I don't particularly mind it being, does anybody else mind it being called a discussion group? I know it's kind of more than that, but

Niki Like, I don't

Ellie It could be a

Niki I don't see the **reason** to call it a discussion group, like, it already has a name, in that it's called Zero Point

Dan Collaboration

Niki I don't mind it being **compared** to a discussion group

Dan Right yeah

Niki Or saying it's **like** a discussion group

Dan I suppose that's more what I mean

Niki I just don't see a reason, like, because

Dan I don't like it being compared to a social club though

Ellie Yeah. The problem with it being a discussion group is that we're not setting a topic, and until we **do** start setting topics

Dan Well, we set an agenda, that's our topics

Ana You get things like email groups, where they've got something they're discussing, and someone will say something and then people will reply to that email for a while, and then someone will say something else and that will make a different thread, which is a bit like our forum I suppose, and they're a kind of discussion group.

Niki But it is like, sometimes, to take that analogy, sometimes you have that situation where there's a big group of people all discussing things in this way, and then, slowly it becomes this more condensed group of people that communicate more regularly with each other, and then they might decide to meet for the first time, and that wasn't dictated in the first instance that they were going to do that, because it **was** an online thing, but all of a sudden it becomes relevant to organise this meeting, or this event or whatever

Dan I've got a good example of that; when I was working at the restaurant there was once this table of very strange people, and they were like, I couldn't work it out, it seemed like they were all from all over the place, they were all different accents, you know, so I started asking them "What's the occasion?" sort of thing, "how come you've all got together?", and they seemed in really good spirits, sort of thing, plenty of drinks and seemed like they were having a good time, like they knew each other,

but I thought it was kind of odd because some of them were obviously Scandinavian, so I asked "So, what are you up to tonight?", and they said "Well, we've organised this weekend, we're all like online gamers, and we're all part of this battalion in this second world war game"

Stuart Brilliant

Dan And we decided that instead of all playing it from our bedrooms, we'd organise this weekend where they'd all flown into Bury, and hired some kind of social hall

Ellie Bloody hell!

Dan And they'd all brought their computers so they could all play it sitting in the same room rather than playing at home, and get drunk in the between times. I thought that was kind of funny. So, obviously, they got to a point in their discussion where they

Ellie Needed a change

Niki And it is like that today, it's like somebody's feeling that it needed something more than it just being a meeting, like the extension of it, the fact that it's called an AGM,

Dan [indistinct] anniversary

Niki the fact that we have an agenda, the fact that, you know, these fireworks, and this that and the other

Ellie [indistinct]

Niki There was this thing that it needed to be slightly, like it's not **that** different, but it's somebody pushing it in a particular direction and some people going with it

Dan And also, you've made that cut-off point where it becomes a social event

Ellie And goes downhill. [some laugh] it descends.

Dan Where it's no longer work; official.

Ellie Fucking hell

Niki And there are other things that we talked about before, like funding, and that will be another thing that will be a major - not a major, but it's a significant difference in relation to something that's quite particular; that, you know, you make the decision that you're going to apply for money for this group, which hasn't really been, kind of [trails off]

Ana Are we kind of happy with the level of visibility or invisibility it's got? Because there's just the forum, it's like a page on your site, has anyone else got anything?

Stuart I've got something on my site, but it's not much, it's like three lines of text

Ellie I haven't got anything, but I could put a link on my links page

Ana I'm not saying we should do

Ellie To the forum

Ana I'm just saying

[a cacophony of voices]

Stuart The problem with the forum is that people can sign up to it and we don't really want any more people signing up to it

Ana I think you can probably lock it

Dan You can close it

Stuart Can you? So that no new members can join?

Dan And we can probably delete some people that were members.

Stuart Shall we look at maybe...

Dan Yeah

Ellie Deleting them all, but I like the thought, the fact that you can give the link to someone who isn't a member and they can read the threads. Can they do that?

Ana Mmm, yeah

Stuart You could still do it so it was visible, but so that no new members could sign up

Ana Is everyone OK with that because the forum was always a public thing, so it's not like other things we're looking at where it was private

Ellie Yeah I think...

Dan So, are we talking about it remaining public, or becoming private?

Ellie I mean if you put a link to the forum...

Stuart I think we're talking about it remaining public

Dan But no-one can

Ana But we might want to make it more

Stuart But making it so that people can't sign up to it as...

Dan But then you...

Ana That's one point

Ellie When you arrive at the forum page, if you're a visitor, does it say anything about the group?

Dan No, it's just the same as when you arrive before you log in

Ana But, uhm

Stuart You could get

Ana You could have an explanation

Ellie It's not really very user friendly then, is it, to the visitor?

Stuart No, but you could have a redirect

Ana Yeah

Stuart URL, where you could just say to someone "Here's this web address" and then it takes them to a page that says "Zero Point Group is..." and then an explanation and then

Ellie And then it clicks onto the forum

Stuart just a button to the forum, so it could

Dan It could be like a blog or something that's just a free

Stuart be just one page with a description

Dan Splash page

Stuart Anything like that yeah

Niki Yeah, personally, I'm not that bothered about people going to the forum to kind of look at it.

Stuart Splash page? I've not heard that before

Niki I think that, yeah

[Cacophony of voices]

Niki It's not about keeping it a secret as such. I think that I'm happy that there be an awareness that this group is kind of ongoing, and that we're doing something, but I'm not sure that I want to be specifically sending people to the forum, not that I particularly want to avoid, because like you say, it's already public, so if somebody looks at it they look at it

Dan I wouldn't want to overly advertise it like that's some kind of product that we are making

Ellie Yeah exactly

Ana Yeah, that's fair enough, I just thought I'd raise the concern

Ellie I think it's quite difficult for the visitor to engage it

Dan But I think that visibility that the group exists is important. Yeah. I think it's uhm

Ana Yeah, so what is, this is a new point in itself I suppose, but what is it to be visible without a product

Dan Just that the conjugation of the group exists and what it does

Ana Just saying that you're part of it

Ellie We would be visible if we had funding though

Dan Yeah

Ellie If we had NAN funding we would become visible because we would have a feature on the NAN page

Dan Yeah, that's true

Ellie Which is, as everyone knows, very exciting

Dan What? [some laughing]

Niki I think it is already visible. Anything you do just makes it more visible

Dan Yeah sure

Niki Like, people have become aware of it without specifically being told about it. In the case of my website, I don't really advertise that full stop, but other people have found it, and looked at this particular page and then come back to me, so they're aware of it without trying that hard, so it's as to how hard you want to try

Ellie Yeah

Niki And whether there needs to be a kind of agreed kind of thing that's put out there about what the group is because maybe I should have run it past people before I put it on my website

Stuart See, I'm not particularly bothered about pointing people toward the forum, but I think the other question is one that I am interested in which is just locking it so that new members can't just randomly sign up for it

Dan And deleting the other people who aren't members

Stuart Yeah, we can do because it won't delete their posts, it'll just change it so it says 'guest' or 'unregistered user' or something like that. So all the information will still be there

Ana What about Jonathan? I guess he was a member when he was posting

Ellie We've got three more points

Stuart But it's not really necessary to do that though is it

Dan Not really no

Stuart As long as no new people can join, those people that did join, that were members are unlikely to post anything new. I think that's probably something we should do, but I'm not bothered about pointing people towards it, or setting up a URL or anything

Ellie There's something quite nice about not publicising it. Something a bit secret about it, or a bit like, mysterious is the word

Niki Yeah, but I think that there's something in the approach and about how it slightly jars with how most people produce things or make work. I think it is important that its presence over, say for instance it went on for five years, I think it would be much different if someone was aware of it at the beginning and five years later. They're still aware that it's ongoing, but they still don't know what it is that you're doing, like why is it still going on five years later? And I think

Ellie And they get paranoid

Niki there's something about this presence of this thing, as a kind of ongoing...

Matt It's significant. It's given it some kind of significance hasn't it really? If it went on for five years

Ellie Well, we talked about it going on for fifteen years didn't we? Something just...

Stuart Twenty!

Ellie Twenty! Fifty! [Laughs]

Matt [indistinct] celebrations

Ellie Celebration of fifty years

Niki Last one standing

Stuart Last one alive wins [Laughter]

Dan Diamond anniversary

Ellie Platinum anniversary

Stuart If you're still alive, plugged into a machine, but can't actually contribute anything, do you win?

Ellie You're in a vegetative state

Dan Yeah, [indistinct] vegetative state text forum

Stuart It's the breathing that's important then?

Dan Yeah, as long as there's still blood going to the brain

Stuart Not the brain activity

Dan Oh well, yeah, as long as there's a bit of blood to certain bits

Ellie We've got 45

Stuart You still need an active brain stem

Dan Yeah

Ellie 48 minutes left

Dan What's our next point?

Ellie Three more points

Stuart Uhm, if 2006, 2006/07, can be characterised as...

Niki No

Stuart the year of forming, are we going from

Niki No, no, I'm

Stuart going from, like

Niki Yeah

Ellie Are we talking about annually?

Niki Yeah, I wasn't talking about

Ellie Calendar years?

Niki it as kind of years, I was talking about 2006, in terms of that as a year

Stuart Up to December?

Niki Yeah, so I was interested in, kind of, 2007 as a year, as being some of it in the past, some of it in the future

Stuart Right, OK

Ellie So what will... so, fifteen years down the line, what will we remember as our main achievements in 2007?

Stuart If it can be characterised as a year of forming, what can the year 2007 characterise? has this already happened or is this a vision?

Ellie Mmmm. I mean, are we ever going to reach a sort of state where we're not at risk of losing members? Or will we always be at risk of losing members?

Niki Surely you're always at risk of losing members

Ana Busses...

Niki Like, the threat of death has already been raised hasn't it?

Ellie If someone died, would we carry on as Zero Point? [Laughter]

Dan Maybe we could write it into our wills. "If I die, Zero Point must continue"

Ellie "If I die, Zero Point must cease forever"

Stuart Beacuse, I'm kind of interested in, because there's that idea of Forming, Norming... Norming... Forming,

Niki Storming

Stuart Storming, Norming

Niki Performing

Dan Performing

Stuart Right. That, right, because that kind of

Ellie Forming, Storming, Norming, what is it?

Stuart Suggests that at some point you get this Norming stage where everyone

Dan Gels

Stuart Agrees on what's happening and everyone's kind of, it's like a unified body of people, that are all acting collectively

Ellie Which one comes first?

Stuart I'm not interested in that

Dan Forming

Stuart As an idea really

Ellie Forming, Storming, Norming? Performing

Dan Yep

Ellie So, you only reach your peak at the end?

Stuart Whereas, I'm more interested in it being a process that never, kind of, culminates, y'know, so it's always like...

Ellie You're always storming

Stuart Difference. Differencing all the time

Ana No that's having arguments

Ellie Is it?

Dan Not brainstorming Ellie

Ellie Oh, OK, I thought that was a good thing

Stuart Y'know, so, it's like

Matt I think that's one of the points, if Zero Point had one, any point is that it's always tried to stop that, that next stage developing somehow isn't it?

Dan I don't think it's trying to stop it

Ellie Norming

Dan It's being extremely cautious about letting it happen, If that's stopping it, I don't know

Ellie Yeah, but we don't want to fall into too much of a pattern do we? We don't want to form? Whats..? I don't know, we don't want to repeat ourselves

Niki I think we do repeat ourselves quite a lot

Stuart Yeah, but I think it's like, I mean, obviously I've been thinking very much in Deleuzian terms because of my research, but it's just that idea of when things, it's not repetition of the same, there is repetition happening, but there's always different elements in it

Ana hang on, that's your point

Ellie Is that your point or Deleuze's point?

Ana No, sorry, I just meant... oh forget it [laughing]

Stuart Yeah, well...

Ana I'm just trying to get you to stop talking about it now, because you're talking about it later, but that's pointless isn't it? I don't know what I was doing.

Stuart Well, with the other ones, we've referred to different points in the agenda as we've gone through haven't we?

Dan We have switched and changed, and I think you've already attempted to read into our time together up to this point the kind of Forming, Storming, Norming thing, you know, you can read it into the situation

Stuart You can do yeah

Dan fairly easily

Stuart Yeah

Dan Y'know, if you wanted to, but I wouldn't necessarily agree that that was a truth in the way that I would think about it

Stuart Yeah, it's an imposed structure isn't it?

Niki Yeah, but my question wasn't suggesting that we had to chose one of the other three words within that particular model, but that the years could be characterised by another terminology that doesn't fit into that model

Dan Yeah, I mean

Stuart I think because it's the way it's there

Dan 2006 Forming, it couldn't really be anything else

Ellie Do you think...

Stuart I think the implication's there that it needed discussion, even if it wasn't a model we wanted to follow. I was just saying it's not a model I think we should follow

Ellie Do you think the group wants to remain unpredictable though? Do you think the group has a desire to be unpredictable?

Niki We seem to work

Stuart It depends what you mean by unpredictable

Niki We seem to

Matt I think there's

Niki A lot of times we've come up with things that create predictability like the kind of

Ellie The regular meetings

Niki the regular meeting, y'know these kind of

Stuart Taking the photograph

Niki Yeah, yeah,

Dan Wednesday, nine o'clock, the alarm's set on my phone

Matt I think there's more a danger of it becoming too predictable rather than unpredictable

Dan But then you've always got these other things that we've been talking about, like Jonathan dropping out, that's fairly unpredictable I'd say, and then the idea that someone could come to the meeting and take it in a different direction, like I couldn't, it is fairly unpredictable because

Ellie You never know whose [indistinct] it is

Dan I wouldn't have thought we'd have had this kind of a meeting one year on. The idea of an AGM hadn't really crossed my mind, as such. Y'know during

Stuart I don't think [indistinct]

Dan Even a one year anniversary hadn't, y'know, crossed my mind because I don't tend to think like that

Matt Interesting that you talked to...

Dan Reactor's never really had a sort of anniversary

Matt Interesting that you're not mentioning Jonathan dropping out, you're saying that's unpredictable, but it's not really

Dan Someone dropping

Matt Someone dropping out is quite predictable

Dan Yeah

Matt That, that

Ellie But what

Stuart But then it's

Matt It's kind of like a threat or an interruption or something

Stuart But there's still elements of unpredictability in it in that it's, you don't know when that's going to happen

Niki And who

Stuart And who it's going to be

Matt I'm just waiting for the next one

Ellie But do we need though, do we need these things that keep happening? Do we need to keep losing members, whether they die or...

Matt I think we need unpredictable

Ellie ... to keep the group alive

Matt to keep the unpredictability within the group to keep it interesting

Niki Well, obviously you can't like...

Dan It's unpredictable...

Niki You can't lose too many members, otherwise that is the

Dan That is the end

Ellie Unless they leave

Matt I'm not suggesting...

Ellie And then they join again, it's like a rotation

Dan I just merely use that as an example

Ellie But we've already ruled that out

Dan because that is something that has happened recently that seems significance

Stuart But because the minimum it can be is two people isn't it? Because it's not called the Zero Point Group, in which case the minimum would be three, it's called the Zero Point Collaboration in which case the minimum number is two. So it could go down to two members and still be feasible as a collaboration.

Dan Oh, imagine that happening

Ellie Do you think it needs to?

Dan Do you think it needs to? To get going? [lots of laughing]

Ellie To keep... maybe that's the point

Stuart Maybe that's the point, maybe

Ellie to get down to two members

Stuart the point at which the last person leaves and there's one person left, and that person will launch off with loads of activity

Niki But also you've got that thing about, it depends which two it goes down to as well, because otherwise it ends up being something that you're already doing

Ellie Mmmm

Ana Mmmm

Ellie It's like

Dan If it just ended up with you two...

Ellie that's all our [indistinct]

[cacophony of voices]

Ellie Not that I've seen Battle Royale, but I imagine...

Dan Battle Royale? We'll all go out to an island and uh...

Ellie Kill each other

Ana Battle Royale, what's that?

Ellie It's a Japanese

Dan Japanese film where uhm, a high school group is taken away to an island and they get armed up with guns and they have to try and survive on this island while they're all trying to kill each other

Ana Is that what we're doing after this meeting? [Laughter]

Stuart No, we're doing that Japanese game show

Ellie It's kill or be killed

Stuart That human Tetris thing

Dan Excellent

Stuart Have you seen that?

Niki Yeah, did Dave send that on the other day?

Ellie It's like, if you survive, in Battle Royale, to survive you have to be the last person

Niki But some people work together

Stuart Well, we've already said that if there's ever a meeting and it's just us two, we won't have a Zero Point meeting

Dan Right, yeah

Stuart because it would be pointless

Ana It did happen once actually

Stuart Yeah it happened once, so we didn't have the zero point meeting. So that is one pairing that

Ellie I would say that

Stuart wouldn't work

Ellie 2007 could be characterised as back-packing, er, back-patting

Dan Back patting

Stuart Back-packing? Around Europe?

Ellie Back patting

Stuart Oh, I see

Ana Why?

Ellie Because we're quite pleased with ourselves

Dan You seem most pleased with us, ourselves

Ellie Is that something wrong with me? I just think, y'know, we've formed the group in 2006, when I wasn't present at any of the meetings, and now we're just kind of, well, I guess that's that word... storming... norming! Cruising, maybe [laughter]

Stuart That has other connotations as well [laughter]

Ellie But we're

Dan What, kerb crawling?

Ellie There's still a certain amount of excitement about the group. If I'm doing this as a fifteen year...

Dan fifteen year plan

Ellie plan, then I think, looking back on it fourteen years down the line, I'll think this was the year of excitement, enthusiasm, back patting

Dan I'm not sure I do agree with you

Ellie and general...

Stuart It's not how I'd characterise it, I don't...

Ellie But you've got to imagine yourself fifteen years down the line, looking back on year two. It's not even year two is it? The second calendar year

Stuart You'll get to fifteen years, and go "I should've got out then, Jonathan had the right idea"

Dan Yeah

Matt That's an interesting question though, "how do you see yourself in the future?"

Dan I think it'll be looked back on, so far anyway, as a year of frustration up to this point in terms of organising any physical meetings it has been more hard work, uhm, and like this meeting

Niki I think you have a high at the beginning of the year, like, didn't we talk about that new year thing

Dan Yeah, that's true yeah

Niki The new year thing kind of provided that stimulus again where the physical meetings after that were relatively well attended, you're at least regular, and the online stuff certainly peaked at that point. Fired up

Stuart That was kind of part of the reason for talking about having this meeting wasn't it?

Ellie Yeah, to rejuvenate

Stuart was to see if it rejuvenated things in the same way the new year had

Ellie yeah, because we had an excuse January 07 to have a rejuvination, so we had to have another excuse

Niki So we have a kind of six month

Stuart Six month cycle yeah

Ellie Yeah, that's what we're saying. So we can always celebrate new year, then we can always celebrate our anniversary, so it can keep us going