

Chester World Development Forum

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2016 at Vicki's

- 1 **Welcome:** TG chaired the meeting
Present: BP, AM, VJ, JT, LC and TG
Apologies: GG, PB

- 2 **Minutes and matters arising:**
 - Committee 5-9-16: With ref to appeal for members to receive emails rather than surface mail – Elizabeth Bott now happy to receive emails. **JT will call on Rev David Roberts to see if can receive emails. AM will approach Robin Wendt.** Need to reduce our costs as far as possible.
AM has contacted Steve Atherton, Justice and Peace worker in Liverpool requesting copy of “A Guide: Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants. Welcoming the Stranger”. Can also be downloaded and AM has sent link round to Committee members on email
LC not had opportunity to look into using Facebook to inform people of events. She will carry this forward to next meeting. BP expressed concerns about using Facebook and inherent “risks” ie receiving unwanted contacts. We need to know enough about “workings” to know how to divert emails
AM to contact GM re speakers on theme of “Food for all”. Possibility of debate?
 - Forum 21-9-16: Evening with Chris Matheson MP – members thought this was a very valuable evening and he gave us lots to think about. He is very much in agreement with CWDF's aims and concerns. Good to hear that he is very anti CETA and TTIP and has deep reservations about how DfID is going to progress. JT commented that CETA is likely to be signed before MEPs have ever had chance to look at it.
Chris Matheson had made the point that TTIP and CETA might be seen as model for BREXIT

- 3 **Future Forum meetings/activities:**
 - **Fri 7th Oct:** Session with Stephen Twigg MP re work of the International Development Select Committee. 7pm, Binks Building, University of Chester.
Note time incorrect on poster. Poster states 7.30pm. Need to resend flyers. **AM to resend flyers to those receiving surface mail**
VJ has done recce of Binks building to see where best to have a display. Doorway very narrow. There would be room at the back of lecture theatre but VJ thinks probably better space outside. VJ is happy to “man” the table. At conclusion of event TG to say something about CWDF's work and urging people to join. **BP will run off 30 new membership forms.** There will also be copies of the annual report available. GM organising 3 tables and 3 display boards - BP has plenty of information/posters to put on boards. New members will be encouraged to join and pay reduced subs but students may just receive updates by email even if haven't paid sub. Committee to get there at 6.00 if possible. Need someone to stand outside for those people who come at incorrect time.
 - **Tues 8th Nov:** Forum meeting. How to get the best out of this open discussion session?
 - AM suggested a push on Fairtrade. VJ gave us update on Heather Swainston's plan for next year's Fairtrade Fortnight in West Cheshire. Forum members could target supermarkets asking them to sell more

Fairtrade products and promote Fairtrade Fortnight. VJ and JT will mention our suggestion to Fairtrade Steering Group and ask how we can best help. A further suggestion – products made with sustainable palm oil? Could gather information from Rainforest Action Network and/or Ethical Consumer.

- Organise debate on issue of “Food for All” and GM crops
- Supporting other group’s projects eg Amnesty International’s Christmas card signing on 5th Dec
- VJ suggested thinking of ways to make our voices heard via petitions and emails without “pestering” Chris Matheson. She will word an email to CM and send it round

Further discussion needed at next committee meeting

- **Tues 17th Nov:** Duncan Green “How Change Happens”, 7.30pm Best Building. Revised posters/flyers prepared?

4 CWDF Diary – update of 01-10-16 attached: any comments/additions?

VJ: Sat 19th Nov there is Fairtrade Fair in Stockport – VJ will send details round

5 Finance & administration issues, including:

- Website: nothing further to report
- Current bank balance: JT not yet had statement. HL and WH paid sub. JT will circulate updated balance in due course
- Arrangements for next mailings - email and surface. Material – Minutes of Chris Matheson evening, updated diary, covering letter - will need to be ready by 2nd Nov. **AM will do photocopying on 2nd Nov**

6 Issues from around the table/ AOB: Week of Focus on Climate Change 8th – 16th Oct. Cards to be signed. **AM to get some cards if possible from CAFOD and Christian Aid.** Idea would be to lobby our MP but we know that Chris already “on our side”

VJ: Re the university - students have to do projects on Sustainable Futures. 2 students this year have been sponsored to do projects on Fairtrade. If CWDF can come up with any ideas for projects please let VJ know

JT: re affiliation to Jubilee Debt Campaign - has contacted JDC and awaiting a reply

TG: informed us of violations of Licensing laws as UK selling arms to Saudi Arabia and these being used to bomb Syria

7 Next Committee meeting: Monday 31 Oct, Annie’s 7.30