

Chester World Development Forum

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 5 February 2018, 7:30pm at Vicki's

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

2 **Minutes and matters arising**

- Committee 09 January 2018:
Brendan Cox is unable to come to an event in Chester. Gyles Brandreth gave his regrets but has a prior engagement on 22 June, but sent CWDF his good wishes. LC has not yet been able to contact Elizabeth Bott about CAMCC's 2017 unpaid subscription. **Action: LC action to chase this up please.**
- Forum 09 January 2018: all covered by agenda items.

3 **Review of meeting with Chris Matheson at the university, Friday 26 January**

Overall, we felt that Chris appeared to be quite tired, and a few of his observations might have been phrased better. We had hoped for a larger audience; there were only two students present, one being Nick Todhunter. Apparently their own meetings only attract a handful of students, and are rather *ad hoc*.

On the subject of UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen, Linda Shuttleworth has subsequently written to CM/BP to query CM's defence of jobs at BAe Preston (highly skilled, well paid, not jobs the north west can afford to lose). The committee agreed this would be a good topic for a discussion at a future Forum. **JT volunteered to contact CAAT to see if they could provide a speaker; also local CND branch would like to be involved (Dai & Margaret Owen; Allison Challon).**

Linda Shuttleworth's husband Stewart had left the meeting following some comments which CM made about Brexit. Stewart has subsequently written to BP and explained that he had misunderstood CM's use of the word "fascist". This had been what had prompted him to walk out of the meeting (for which Stewart apologised). We felt there was a lesson for CWDF: not all members supported the 'Remain' campaign, and we must recognise 'Leave' is a valid view; both must be respected. Linda said she had sometimes felt inhibited in speaking out in meetings.

We need to ensure that we send CM our Forum minutes, and pass on appropriate briefing notes we receive from campaigners, charities, etc. **Action: BP.** We need to exercise caution to avoid overloading him with information as CM is already rather busy.

4 **Finance & administration issues**

- Current bank balance:
JT had not received the latest bank statement. He reported paying in subscriptions and donation amounting to £98 during January – but overlooked a cheque from December still in the pipeline. The actual bank statement dated 31 January subsequently showed a balance of **£489.78**, and JT holds £7.82 in cash to pay against expenses for postage and photocopying. **Action: AM to advise JT what she is owed please.**
- Members' Questionnaire: responses so far.
JT apologised for not analysing the 7 completed forms he had received, but passed them round for inspection. Replies have not provided any significant information; we need to canvass for more responses.
- Subscription appeal: progress:

JT had previously circulated a list of subscriptions received in January, and mentioned that the local CND group had also renewed and made a generous donation. With the cash and cheques received on the night, a further £70 was paid in to the bank on 06 February.

- TG suggested we make a donation to Christian Aid in recognition of Sarah Rowe's talk at the January Forum meeting, especially as our offer of travel expenses had been declined. JT wrote a cheque on the spot. **Action: XX to deliver.**

5 Arrangements for future Forum meetings

- 13 March: there will be a lecture at the university by Dr. Tom Gillespie about the solution of the homelessness crisis in Accra, Ghana from 5-6pm which some members are likely to attend, effectively creating a clash with the Forum at 7pm. We decided to cancel our booking at The Unity Centre (**action: BP**) and meet at the university instead. Plan 'B' – meet as usual at The Unity Centre, BP has asked Mike Johnson to talk about activities of the local Amnesty group.
- AGM in May, Forum on 10 July, in September and November:
AM please find out about speaker *I didn't note the names*** on El Salvador. JT – look into CAAT/CND speakers for an exploration of peace/armaments issues raised after Chris Matheson meeting. JT – contact Helen Tandy about ethical banking/economic issues impacting on development. JT – contact CM to find out if he is willing to help us find speaker/facilitator for a Food Matters 2 event or similar.**
- 22 June special 25th Anniversary event:
Gill Miller had some suggestions after Gyles Brandreth gave his regrets. She suggested contacting Baroness Lynda Chalker as a possible replacement. **Action: TG to consult GM.** GM suggested an easier format might be: speaker followed by wine and cheese rather than a full meal. The committee liked this idea. TG reported here is no pressure (yet) from Wesley to confirm the booking.

6 CWDF Diary – update of 3-2-18

We briefly discussed the visit of the Fairtrade banana producer from Panama – will be publicised once full details are confirmed. The event in Storyhouse on 10 March will definitely go ahead, and printed fliers were handed out. There will be a planning meeting at Storyhouse on Wednesday 14 February at 10:30 to which all supporters of the event are invited.

7 Issues from around the table/ AOB

JT proposed that Peter Byrne should be given a life membership of CWDF in recognition of his huge contribution over the years. TG pointed out that, because of his illness, Peter had asked to be removed from our circulation list.

JT & TG both drew attention to the Global Justice Now campaign on the Trade Bill which is to be debated by parliament in the next two months.

BP presented information on the forthcoming judicial review on aspects of NHS "reforms" which Jeremy Hunt is trying to carry out.

TG reported that the parliamentary International Development Committee had criticised DFID's failure to deliver the support promised for education in developing countries, and its failure to increase education spending over the next 3 years.

8 Arrangements for next mailings – surface and email

BP will send out the next email on Wednesday with Diary update. The next surface mailing can be sent out once AM has written up Sarah Rowe's talk. We need to make members aware of the revised arrangements for the Forum on 13 March.

9 Next Committee meeting: Monday 05 March 7.30pm, Annie's