



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on

Tuesday 9 May 2017 in The Unity Centre

1 **Welcome:** Terry Green chaired the meeting

- Special welcome to Chester University students Megan Hepplethwaite, Jacob Mortimer, Carrie Taylor re Sustainable Futures Project

Present: Terry Green, Bernard Payne (St Columba's Third World Group), Sue Bownas (CAFOD), Megan Hepplethwaite, Carrie Taylor and Jacob Mortimer (University of Chester), John Tacon, Vicki Jenner, Margaret Lord and Lindsay Cussons, (Baha'i), Terry Walsh (Chester CND), Ann McCarthy (CAFOD and Christian Aid), Kath Stephenson, Mark Rideal (Chester Friends of the Earth and Chester CND), Katy Rowe (Christian Aid and Chester Friends of Palestine) and Brian Rowe (Chester Friends of Palestine)

Apologies: Gerald Grant, Gill Miller, Matthew Jessop, Linda Shuttleworth, Heather Swainston

Update on Gerald Grant – he is making good progress

2 **CWDF Sustainability Project:**

Chester students to introduce and present their project findings

The students used a PowerPoint presentation which can be viewed on our website

Project Objectives

- Identify areas of the CWDF most likely to appeal to younger people;
- Explore the websites and social media presence of similar organisations elsewhere and develop suggestions and draft enhancements for CWDF;
- Assess the awareness of CWDF among younger people and their interest in the issues that it deals with;
- Evaluate the findings and provide recommendations and draft materials to the client.

The students met with CWDF committee members and attended a Forum meeting to gain background information on our activities; they also sent out a questionnaire to fellow students to discover whether they were aware of CWDF's existence and ascertain what issues would appeal to young people.

According to their findings from the questionnaire, there were more students who hadn't heard of CWDF than had heard of our existence and most interest was expressed in ending world hunger, climate change, women's rights, and sustainable development with ending world poverty, and migrants & refugees coming second. Less interest was expressed in Fairtrade, life stories, politics, conflict and orphans.

They then went on to look at methods of raising awareness which included

- Social media
- Email
- Posters, flyers, and billboards
- Host local events

Clearly the method that CWDF does not use effectively at present is "social media" and social media would seem to be the best way to engage younger people.

They also felt that there were some issues with our website. For instance, the layout was clear but basic; calendar also clear but needed more updates; needs more information on what CWDF actually does.

Events are advertised by one of our members on Facebook but the students concluded that Facebook could be used more regularly and interactively. Amongst their recommendations was a suggestion that CWDF looks at the Oxford Forum for International Development (OxFID) which has an up-to-date website and Facebook page.

Conclusions and recommendations

- Create a better connection with the University of Chester International development society
- Target popular issues among younger people
- Increase awareness:
 - increase social media presence
 - Advertise and promote events

Terry Green thanked the students for their presentation and findings

3 Minutes/ notes of Forum meetings, and matters arising:

- Forum meeting of 14th March 2017 – no matters arising
- Chair to report on key issues covered in Committee meetings held on 5th April and 1st May 2017 – discussions and planning of future meetings, matters relating to Chester University students' Sustainability Project and discussion re announcement of General Election and possibility of "Hustings" at university specifically on international development issues

4 Report on Activities May 2016 to April 2017:

- Chair to introduce the Annual Report (*report previously circulated*)
Report shows the breadth of our interests.
There is some concern about our future MP. Our present MP has shown great interest on issues of international development. However, none of the candidates have mentioned anything to do with international development in their briefings.

As a result of the students' project as mentioned previously, we will now make contact with the International Development group at the university

5 Financial report for 2016:

- Treasurer to introduce the report which had been already circulated. John Tacon explained the details of the report and asked if any queries. There were none.
Acceptance of the financial report was proposed by Vicki Jenner and seconded by Brian Rowe
The present balance is £451.71. Non payment of subs by some groups and individuals is an issue. The committee will be reviewing this at their next meeting

6 Committee: election of officers, including:

- Chair - one nomination – Terry Green. Proposed by Mark Rideal and seconded by Katie Rowe
- Treasurer – one nomination – John Tacon. Proposed by Terry Green and seconded by Mark Rideal
- Mailing Secretary – Bernard Payne happy to continue in this role with Ann McCarthy's assistance
- Committee members – Lindsay Cussons, Gerald Grant, Vicki Jenner and Ann McCarthy (all willing to continue)
- Any further nominations for the committee – none received

Peter Byrne has decided to retire from the committee and we thank him for all his hard work and commitment over many years to CWDF. He was of course “Chair” for a long time followed by a numerous years on the committee. Kath Stephenson thanked the committee for all their hard work over the past year

7 Arrangements for forthcoming events/ relevant activities, including:

- 22nd or 24th May (provisional) **Pre-Election meeting on International Development Issues**. The Q&A session with Parliamentary Candidates is under negotiation. The event would be from 7.00 -9.00pm in Binks or Best Building at the University. 22nd May is the preferred date as Churches Together in Chester are holding a similar event in Chester Catholic High on Friday, 25th May. Chris Matheson can attend on either date. BP not yet heard from Conservative candidate
- **11th July Forum meeting**. Our speaker will be retired hospital consultant, John Williams, on his post-retirement work overseas
- September date to be negotiated: **Informal session with the Chester MP**

8 Around the Table - update on current activities, events and issues, Diary listings:

TW: Friends of the Earth – Flower planting at Water Tower gardens 14th May from 12.00 – 3.00

BP: Globetrotters on 20th May at the Grosvenor Museum – Heather Lannin on her travels to Sierra Leone

Also - “The Great Get-together” weekend 16th – 18th June in memory of Jo Cox Chester Blue Coat Primary School, Walpole Street, Summer Fayre on Sat 17th June from 12.00 including Jo Cox Commemoration picnic

MR: raising awareness with CWaC of accessibility problems in Chester – eg subways flooded last year. Effects all people but particularly those with mobility problems

BR: Chester Friends of Palestine - highlighting the signing of Balfour Declaration. Nov 2017 is the centenary. Look out for events. For further information Google “The Balfour Project”. Shows Britain’s involvement in The Balfour Declaration

KR: Christian Aid Week runs from 14th – 21st May. Christian Aid’s main is still climate change. KR also drew our attention to on-line petition about Donald Trump

JT: Follow-up meeting re refugee families has taken place in Cathedral. The needs of the families has been assessed and now looking how families can be supported.

SB: Cards to be signed “Brexit – make it work for everyone”. If members would like to sign a card at the meeting, the committee will hold on to them until after the election

CAFOD’s latest campaign is called “Power to Be” and is aimed at tackling the World Bank. SB will have cards to be signed at July meeting. World Bank meeting is in Sept.

9 AOB: none

AGM preceded by ...

“Chester Zoo’s Conservation Work”

Talk by Cat Barton, Field Conservation Manager