

Chester World Development Forum



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on

Tuesday 14 May 2019 at The Unity Centre

- 1 **Welcome:** TG chaired the meeting
Present: Margaret Lord and Lindsay Cussons (Baha'i), Pam Price (Church Action on Poverty), Terry Walsh (Chester CND), Mark Rideal (Chester CND and FoE), Bernard Draper (Quakers), Katy Rowe (Christian Aid), Brian Rowe, Beth and Neil Gibbons (Chester Friends of Palestine), Catherine Green and Ann McCarthy (CAFOD), Vicki Jenner, Elizabeth Bott (CHAWREC, The Asian Council), John Tacon (Fairtrade, Chester Sustainability Forum, Chester FoE), Terry Green and Shantele Janes (Director of the Chester, Halton & Warrington Racial Equality Council)
Apologies: Tom Ormiston, Tony Walsh, Heather Swainston, Jude Limb, Linda and Stuart Shuttleworth, Gerald Grant, Bernard Payne, Sue Bownas and Gill Miller
- 2 **Minutes/ notes of Forum meetings, and matters arising:**
 - Forum meeting of 12th March 2019: No matters arising but has been further update on Christian Aid's Campaign "The Big Shift" – Sarah Rowe, Christian Aid's Campaign officer, has received a letter from HSBC outlining their commitment to phase out investing in fossil fuels. Christian Aid have replied to HSBC welcoming the move but stating that it is not going far enough.
 - Chair to report on key issues covered in Committee meeting held on 25th March 2019: Committee considered Chester Cathedral's new strategies on climate change, looked at the issues that Chester Sustainability Forum and CFoE are raising with CWaC and where CWDF would fit in with this. Discussed actions on climate change and ways of collaborating with other groups. A key action could be letter writing to CWaC and/or MP on regular basis
- 3 **Report on Activities May 2018 to April 2019 – copies were circulated in advance**
 - Chair to introduce the Annual Report: Over the last year there has been a great variety of speakers on wide ranging issues to do with development. The Forum continues to try and keep both members and local people informed on the issues. The diary is reported to be very useful. Katie Rowe expressed thanks to Terry for all his hard work.
- 4 **Financial report for 2018**
 - Treasurer to introduce. Annual Financial report to be circulated by email. AM to send copy to those on surface mail. JT commented on the reduction in number of constituent member groups and not all individuals have yet paid their subs.
- 5 **Committee: election of officers, including:**
 - Chair:
 - Treasurer
 - Mailing Secretary
 - Committee members

PP proposed that if all the present officers and committee are prepared to continue they should be automatically elected. Forum members agreed

Officers: Chair – Terry Green
Treasurer – John Tacon

Mailing Secretary: Bernard Payne
Committee members: Lindsay Cussons, Vicki Jenner, Gerald Grant and Ann
McCarthy

6 Arrangements for forthcoming events/ relevant activities, including:

- **Sat 15th June** – Chester FoE's Sustainable Chester Spring Fair, Grosvenor Park. CWDF are having a joint stall with Chester Fairtrade.
We need members of the Forum to volunteer to “person” the stall particularly as several of the committee are away that day on holiday.
Also need to display a variety of leaflets from our member organisations. Katy Rowe offered to have a look on line for Christian Aid information
- **Tues 9th July** – Speakers Linda & Stewart Shuttleworth ‘**The psychology of apathy about climate change...and what to do about it!**’

7 Around the Table - update on member groups' current activities, events and issues.

JT: Promoting Fairtrade pop-up stall in market on 24th, 25th May. He reported that there had been a very positive meeting this morning of Fairtrade Steering group. Have some new members. Councillor Louise Gittens is now the leader of the council but she has agreed to stay on as “champion” of Fairtrade.

JT: Although the And Albert shop has ceased trading Matthew Sutton will continue selling Fairtrade on line.

KR: Christian Aid Week taking place this week and the focus is on women in Sierra Leone and childbirth. She also had a petition to be signed asking for the cancellation of Sierra Leone's debt.

BR: Next meeting (29th May) of CFoP is going to be workshop evening on how best to move forward.

Meeting in June (26th) Andrew Herbert from Wesley will give a talk on his recent visit to West Bank.

JT: brief update on fracking inquiry. Reportedly the Inspector had made his decision but in the light of recent developments he is seeking further legal advice.