

Chester World Development Forum



Minutes of AGM held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 Via Zoom

Business Meeting

- 1 **Welcome:** Terry Green chaired the meeting
Present: Gill Miller, Ann McCarthy, Heather Swainston, Georgina Wilson, Bernard Payne, Terry Green, John Tacon, Katie and Brian Rowe, Heather Lannin, Lindsay Cussons, Angela Macquiban, Sean English, Vicki and Peter Jenner, Rose Johnson, Linda Shuttleworth, Martin Evans and Tony Walsh
Apologies: John Freeman and Peter Spiers
Tony Walsh and Rose Johnson for AGM business

- 2 **Minutes/ notes of Forum meetings, and matters arising:**
 - Forum meeting of 9th March 2021 – no matters arising
 - Forum “extra” 12th April (Jim Holmes, R Mekong) – no matters arising

- 3 **Report on Activities May 2020 to April 2021**
 - Terry Green as Chair introduced the Annual Report. CWDF has continued to have good informative meetings via Zoom and kept going through lockdown. Contact with members has been maintained through the diary. Some members have not been able to attend meetings as they do not have access to Zoom but we continue to update them on our activities via surface mail. One of the major concerns for CWDF has been the reduction of the international aid budget. LS thanked TG for putting the report together and BR thanked the committee for their hard work in organising some very interesting speakers.

Included in the annual report this year is reference to the Government’s “Integrated Review”. CWDF have 2 major concerns resulting from the review – the reduction in the aid budget and the proposal to increase the cap on the UK’s nuclear weapons stockpile from 180 to 260.
Terry Green and Bernard Payne are preparing a letter to Dominic Raab expressing our grave concerns, with a copy to go to Chris Matheson, MP
The meeting was asked for agreement to this letter being sent on members’ behalf. There was full agreement from all present

- 4 **Financial report for 2020**
 - John Tacon introduced the report which is self explanatory. CWDF membership has increased this year so the income from subs went up. There have only been 2 meetings in Unity Centre in the past year but the committee agreed to send some money for non- hire to help the centre out.
The outgoings, apart from room hire, include admin, maintenance of the website and donations to our speakers for their charity. Some donations have also gone to DEC appeals with members’ approval.
We have a healthy bank balance at the moment.
We may be able to resume face-to-face meetings soon so expenses will go up.
HL asked whether a donation to India via DEC could be made. Members agreed
The meeting was asked to accept JT’s report. Vicki Jenner proposed and Linda Shuttleworth seconded. All members present accepted

- 5 **Committee: election of officers, including:**
 - Chair: Terry Green to continue - proposed by Brian Rowe and seconded by Linda Shuttleworth. All agreed
 - Treasurer: John Tacon to continue – proposed by Vicki Jenner and seconded by Heather Swainston. All Agreed

- Mailing Secretary – Bernard Payne to continue - proposed by Katie Rowe and seconded by Gill Miller. All agreed
- Committee members – Lindsay Cussons, Vicki Jenner and Ann McCarthy to continue plus newly co-opted members Gill Miller and Georgina Wilson - Proposed by Katie Rowe and seconded by Heather Swainston. All Agreed

6 Arrangements for forthcoming events/ relevant activities, including:

TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) talk – 7th June 7pm via Zoom. This is a Forum “extra”. It is a 15 minute talk by the new head of World Health Organisation. A note will be circulating shortly with the details plus a resume written by Gill Miller as an introduction. It was agreed that we watch the talk together followed by a discussion.

- **Tues 13th July – CWDF Forum: “Fair Tax Now”** Speaker Justin Thacker, Director of the Campaign Church Action for Tax Justice
- **Tues 14th Sept – CWDF Forum: “A Year of Summits”** with Gill Miller, providing an overview of the major international gatherings that have taken place and are still to take place over the course of 2021, including the COP26 Climate Summit
- **Any further events to note from CWDF Diary listing:**
 BR: CFoP – “In Search of the Rule of Law” - sponsored by Balfour Project. Free online conference on the afternoons of 25th and 26th May - exploring the distance between international law – which Britain has pledged to uphold – and the lived reality in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Clearly very significant in view of what’s going on in Israel at present. Also the local CFoP are holding vigil on Sat 15th May from 2 - 4 pm to mark the anniversary of Nakba, 73 years ago (Palestinians affirming the right of return to Israel). They need people to do 30 min or 1 hour stretch. 07752 949832 BR’s mobile number and if can go please let him know before Friday. Meet at The Cross. BP will put out on updated diary
 KR: Christian Aid event - Trevor Dennis evening of readings and music on 12th May. It can be watched on YouTube. Donations can be made through a JustGiving page.
 JT: Fairtrade shop re-opening on 18th May plus the cafe in Wesley

- 7 **AOB:** GW is fundraising for Henry Sidsaph’s school and she asked whether we would support. Members agreed to support
 AM will attend the next Chester Sustainability Forum meeting on 20th May in JT’s absence.

To follow:

Note of the talk by Henry Sidsaph “Miténgo coffee, - tree planting through ethical coffee?”