

Chester World Development Forum

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 9 January 2017 at Annie's

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

2 **Minutes and matters arising:**

- Committee 5-12-16: **JT to follow up Rev D Roberts.**
AM enquired about campaign cards from Fairtrade Foundation. None available on website. **AM could phone Fairtrade Foundation to see if any old cards kept in stock or JT will speak to HS to see if she has any suitable cards for supermarkets.**
Next full Forum meeting on 17th Jan all organised with regard to Stephen's equipment needs
BP has forwarded copy of our latest mailing to Transition Chester but had no response. JT will be seeing Peter Bulmer (from Transition Chester) and will ask if they received BP's email.
- Any issues arising from latest email/surface mailings. No problems. Re surface mail – photocopying completed on 4th Jan and mailing been distributed

3 **Future Forum meetings/activities:**

- **Forum Tues 17th Jan –** Speaker Stephen Maund on Malawi project. BP will bring projector + sound equipment and TG will bring screen
- **Student Sustainability project –** scope of project needed to be wider and not just confined to university students. This needs to be put to Roy Alexander. JT has suggested and written a response to Roy Alexander's letter and Committee agreed that this should be sent to Roy for his comments. **VJ will send the email.** BP suggested that some key members of CWDF such as Gill Miller and Heather Swainston could be interviewed along with Committee members. Small number to meet with student group on 23rd Jan or 30th Jan between 4.30 and 6.30. Committee members proposed - JT, BP and VJ. They could attend initial meeting and then involve Gill and possibly Heather
- **Possible Study Visit, Geneva –** note of TG/BP session with Gill Miller attached for information. Committee felt that somewhat impractical and rather expensive and doubtful whether can get enough people to go. **BP will contact GM first to float our views and will also send her copy of his note that went out to Committee** Copies of BP's note on "Possible Geneva Study Visit" to be given out at Forum meeting next Tuesday to see if generates any interest
- **Activities for Fairtrade Fortnight - 27 Feb to 12 March**
HS still getting in touch with past producers. Has so far managed to contact Palestinian olive oil producer from last year and coffee producer from Costa Rica. **AM to compose letter to come from committee to go to all supermarkets asking them for promotion of Fairtrade products during Fairtrade Fortnight. Could also send latest leaflet on Fairtrade.**

JT will discuss this idea with HS

- **Full Forum 14th Mar** – Ann McCarthy on Vietnam

Ideas for future meetings:

AGM on May 9th - Presentation on sustainable palm oil production or related topic from Zoo's conservation office. **AM to contact Cat Barton – if she's still there**

Any opportunities for groups to come in and see conservation programme?

JT will explore possibility of his brother coming to talk on work in Bhutan

Contact Gill re showing Leonardo de Caprio's film "Before the Flood" at university. It is freely downloadable and university has the facilities to have a viewing.

AM will contact GM re this and also ask about "Food for All" event

TG will look at "Conflict and Climate Change" DVD and see if still relevant,

although BP thinks these are issues on which we will have little influence

4 **CWDF Diary – update of 2-1-17 attached: any comments/additions**

It is in the diary but just a reminder about Dr Nick Henwood's talk on 19th Jan in Best Building 7.30

Also – World Religion Day Celebration organised by Baha'is of Chester on Sunday 15th Jan at 2pm in The Unity Centre entitled "Give Peace a Chance". BP has sent posters out by email

5 **Finance & administration issues:**

- Latest bank statement shows balance as £338.93 on 30 December 2016. £15.50 was raised in cash at the November Forum meeting plus an individual £8 cash subscription received, less £5.46 outstanding expenses settled, gives our effective balance at the beginning of 2017 as **£356.97**. Some 2017 subs have already come through.

- Yemen Appeal – how to respond to this and similar appeals (*guidance note agreed way back in 2006 set out below for info.*)

Discussion as to whether committee should simply "alert" constituent members to plight of Yemen and leave it up to individuals to make donations or should we make a group donation. Any reasonable donation now would use up some of the "ring fenced" fund. Alternatively Forum could organise a fundraising event.

Do we realistically need to keep £300 in the fund?

Past donations have usually been made to emergencies following natural Disasters

These suggestions need to be put to full Forum at next Tuesday's meeting

BP proposed that, at Tuesday's meeting, it could be announced that the committee have recommended a donation of £100 provided that subs begin to come in soon.

Either BP or JT will put points over to full Forum and point out that donation will go below our ring fenced funds.

Need to review the policy at AGM

6 **Issues from around the table/ AOB:**

JT mentioned plan for getting Chris Matheson in Sept? **TG will email Labour office to see if he's available.**

TG: Did we know that a new 25 year environment plan open for consultation?

AM and VJ: Find out about this year's Climate Change Action

7 **Next Committee meeting: Mon 6 Feb 7.30pm, Vicki's?**

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Draft guidelines for CWDF response to appeals

- In general, CWDF functions as an awareness-raising and campaigning organisation rather than a fund-raising organisation. Subscriptions are set at a modest level, intended to cover costs of running the business meetings, mailings and website maintenance. On occasions, subscription income has been supplemented by small grants (e.g. from Chester City Council to help fund specific projects such as One World Week celebratory programmes, further development of the website and the mailing lists). Consequently, the Forum does not normally hold funds large enough to allow it to make regular donations to other bodies or individuals.
- Events and gatherings are generally planned and organised on the basis of costs being covered. Where, exceptionally, a surplus is generated, this will normally be retained for CWDF's ongoing work. In the case of a substantial surplus, the Committee will make proposals to the Forum for the spending of the surplus by way of donations to causes relevant to the Forum's aims.
- As a matter of general principle, any donations proposed to be made by the Forum will be funded through specific fund-raising activities arranged by the Forum and/ or its member groups or individuals. However, in situations of real emergency, meetings of the Forum should consider suggestions for donations.

BP

15-05-06