

Chester World Development Forum

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 1 February 2016 at Annie's

1 **Welcome:** TG chaired the meeting

Present: TG, KS, JT, LC, PB, GG, SM, BP and AM

Special welcome to Stephen Maund for Item 2

2 **Discussion with Stephen Maund about proposed project in Malawi and how CWDF may be of help**

Stephen exploring a new way of providing aid. Note on Njobvu Project attached which is shortened version. SM been back to small area in Malawi and realised that aid been going in to fund lots of projects but that nothing is "joined up". No tax base so very few people pay tax which means very little money from Government can be spent on essential services. For instance – clinic been built with Swiss money by Ripple Africa but government can't afford to pay any staff to run it. SM researched "model" that is working in Uganda. BRAC now 70% self funded. People now not waiting for aid to flow down but immediate loans allow communities to become self sufficient. BRAC have interest rate of 25%. Some of interest channelled into social fund and village control the fund and make decisions on how it should be spent. Some of that needed for administration of system. Rest goes into social fund.

SM had to admit that have been some bad cases where loan not repaid on time but percentage of non-repayment small. Clearly important to select candidates carefully. Both individuals and groups could apply for loans under SM's proposals.

SM commented that there are lots of well meaning NGOs – British Council, Save the Children, UNICEF etc but projects not always sustainable. Major problem is that locals are not trained in how to maintain projects.

Seed funders – need about £100,000 to start. SM would hope to complete survey in Malawi by May.

Set up UK charity to bring money in. Then form finance company in Malawi to manage funds.

AM to send email to Linda Tiongco to ask if ok to send her details to SM

3 **Minutes and matters arising:**

- Committee 4-01-16: AM - rail tickets for Rob Elsworth sorted. Edited report done. **TG will contact Chris Matheson re date for Stephen Twigg to come and talk at University. Suggested dates – March 4th, April 15th, April 22nd and May 6th**
- Forum 12-01-16: Thanks to JT for doing minutes. TG wrote to Becky to thank her. Suggest giving her a donation of £25 for her trip to USA. Committee agreed

4 **Future Forum meetings/activities:**

- **Climate talk, post-Paris, 2nd Feb** – Talk by Rob Elsworth (Climate and Policy Analyst at CAFOD) 7.00pm Best Building. Any final arrangements to settle? **TG to do vote of thanks. Try and encourage people to join CWDF. BP to bring leaflets.**

- **Full Forum 8th Mar** – Speaker Heather Swainston on Fairtrade themes. All in hand
- **AGM 10th May** – *Speaker John Williams: “Three Jumbos Crash in a Day”*

5 CWDF Diary – update of 21-01-16 attached: any comments/additions

No additions.

6 Finance & administration issues, including:

- Current bank balance - £582.35 as of 29th Jan. JT just paid out 3 lots of expenses including cheque for Rob Elsworth’s train fare which reduced balance to £414.46. Has received a further £26 in subs which raises balance to £440.46
- Progress with 2016 subs: 12 individuals paid up and 8 groups. Need to review at next committee meeting
- Arrangements and items for next mailing (surface and email): Report on Rob Elsworth, note advertising March meeting, possibly information on Fairtrade Fortnight. To all go out at end of Feb. BP will explore possibility of using CDEC.
BP to contact Heather Swainston

7 Issues from around the table/ AOB:

PB: had lots of information from War on Want on TTIP. Will bring to next Forum Meeting. Also bring info on Canadian trade agreement. War on Want have offered us speaker. Explore having speaker for July meeting. **PB will speak to Gill first to see if any mileage in having our meeting at University. Also look at inviting an MEP, Theresa Griffin?**

LC: went to interesting talk on fracking. She will write it up ready to go out in next mailing.

JT: listened to good programme on Cayman Islands. JT sent very useful email round with further comments on this programme. Also has just been to Crickhowell which has become “Fair Tax Town”. JT has sent a separate email explaining this system. Go to this link for further information – www.taxjustice.net/2015/11/12/crickhowell-can-tax-justice-movement-support-tax-resistance

TG: Global Justice update - Michael Gates Foundation too close to big business. Also comments from Global Justice on Paris Agreement stating that lots of words and no provision for action.

8 Next Committee meeting: Mon 29th Feb 7.30pm, Kath’s