

Chester World Development Forum

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 29 February 2016 at Kath's

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

2 Minutes and matters arising:

Committee 1-02-16:

- Linda Tiongco has been contacted and BP has forwarded her email address to Stephen Maund.
- All matters covered re Rob Elsworth talk except for sending thanks. A thank you note can be sent to him with a copy of the write up of his talk.
- Re photocopying – HS happy for us to use CDEC's copier. Cannot use on Fridays and school holidays. Cost 1p per copy
- PB not yet spoken to GM re having meeting on TTIP in University because of her recent family bereavement. PB has been in contact with War on Want re speaker but they have mislaid letter so PB has done another one. Committee feel that sufficient time has elapsed now for GM to be contacted. **PB will contact her with regard to holding event with speaker on TTIP in University**

3 Report of Rob Elsworth's talk:

BP has put notes together from AM and JT which will accompany slides. He's hoping to copy some of slides to send out. It won't be possible to send out all slides. BP hoping to complete this by next Tuesday.

Committee on the whole were impressed by his talk. Certainly gave us a mental picture of the Paris meeting and showed what had been achieved and that this was just the start of the "journey". Some students commented that there wasn't enough detail.

4 Future Forum meetings/activities:

- **Fairtrade Fortnight activities** - Chester leaflet attached. Includes Fairtrade Breakfast Sat 5th March. JT asked if we could log number of people who came. Someone to hand out leaflets outside would be handy
- **Full Forum 8th Mar** – Speaker Heather Swainston on Fairtrade themes. **JT to ask HS if she needs projector and/or lap top**
- **AGM 10th May** – Speaker John Williams: "Three Jumbos Crash in a Day" - **but possible need for Plan B in view of John's impending surgery.** Various suggestions put forward; Stephen Maund on his new ideas for microfinance, Heather Lannin on her latest trip to Sierra Leone, Jim Holmes (new member) – been round world as freelance photographer and interested in development. **JT will contact Jim by email.** See if we can get in touch with him before next Tuesday's meeting.
TG will contact John Williams to let him know that we think better leave his talk until he is fully recovered.
- **Possible session with Stephen Twigg MP** - Any dates yet on offer from Chris Matheson? TG has emailed Chris but no reply to date

5 CWDF Diary:– update of 28-02-16 attached: any comments/additions:

BP will add Chester Friends of Palestine regular meeting to our diary.

GM has asked BP about what our “theme” was for this year. Possibility of one day conference???

Action Aid can offer speaker on tax issue particularly in relation to Malawi. **TG will make enquiries**

6 Finance & administration issues:

- Website hacking issue: Website infected. Mike Roberts has given of his services free to do remedial work. Have new user name and password. BP managed to open website but found no information. Get in touch with someone from Skills share to see if we are eligible for a further grant. Cost for the day would normally be £225. JT suggested that if we can get all subs in we would have enough funds to pay Mike Roberts. BP would like to have face to face with Rob and one other person from Committee to try and negotiate a deal which would be acceptable to him and us. **BP will contact Joanne Walton at CVA to enquire about grant and then arrange to meet Mike with JT and TG.** Committee agreed that need to have website up and running safely
- Current bank balance: £434.46 approx
- Progress with 2016 subs: JT will make a list of people who haven't paid. Then note to go out about hacking. **JT will draft note re hacking incident and appeal to people to pay sub asap. BP will then send out in next mailing. The note will go out to everyone with accompanying comment for people who've already paid to ignore the request.**
- Arrangements and items for next mailing (surface and email) – including handling the copying at CDEC: Mailing: Diary, Subs reminder, reminder about Tuesday's meeting and flyer for “Fun Days in the Park” organised by HS for Fairtrade Fortnight. BP will do photocopying at St Columba's on this occasion and KS will post out. From then on will use CDEC.

7 Issues from around the table/ AOB:

TG been approached by chair of Chester Churches Together to see whether we would be involved in debate on European Union and Development in the run up to the impending referendum on Europe. The request has come to CWDF because of our successful hosting of the Hustings last year. BP commented that very important issue. Uncertainty as to whether CWDF should organise the event. **TG will get in touch with Brian and Fr Paul Shaw**

PB: 6 ways the banks have taken back control – NEF blog. Very alarming

BP: Recent attendance at “Stop Trident” rally in London on 27th Feb. Full coach went from this area. BBC reported on “low thousands” but more like 12,000 – 15,000.

Some very good speakers including an Anglican Bishop, Jeremy Corbyn, Leanne Wood, Caroline Lucas, Bruce Kent, Nicola Sturgeon, Tariq Ali and others. Concern over loss of jobs if UK not to renew Trident. BP referred us to “The Lucas Plan”, (formulated by workers at Lucas Aerospace) a movement in 1970s for “socially useful production”. Allowed redeployment of workers. Now a thriving company making aviation parts. Point made that it is a waste of workers' skills to be producing weapons of mass destruction and it is possible to radically change. (You can google the plan)

TG: Raising awareness and solidarity with Palestine – Big Bike ride for Palestine. Focusing on weapons factory which supplies weapons to Israel – Shenstone, Lichfield

8 Next Committee meeting: Mon 4 April 7.30pm, Annie's