

Chester World Development Forum

Minutes of Committee meeting on Monday 03 September 2018

7:30pm, Vicki's

- Welcome:** Terry chaired the meeting and gave a warm welcome to Neil Gibbons who joined us for the second item on the agenda.
Present: TG, LC, VJ, SB and JT.
Apologies: AM, BP and GG.
JT is taking notes in Annie's absence. We all send her our very best wishes for the surgery and for a speedy and safe recovery.

2 "Chester Meets the World"

We had a discussion with Neil Gibbons about his initial proposal and the ways in which CWDF might respond. Neil explained the background and rationale behind the document he circulated at our last Forum meeting. When approaching the public (in Chester), Neil's objective is to establish a common point of agreement so you are not arguing but finding consensus for a way forward. Neil recognises the 10 topics listed are broad, long-term objectives addressing long-standing issues. A round the table discussion followed, raising some ideas for CWDF to consider; especially ways to bring our member groups, and others who currently aren't, into the process. We agreed this will need further work to fine-tune the wording of each topic, and the committee will keep this item on the agenda. **Action is for all Committee members to bring their comments and ideas to the next meeting.**

3 Minutes and matters arising

- Committee meeting on 06 August:
LC will find out details of International Women's Day.
JT – questionnaire for member organisations now on hold as the proposal is to use "Chester Meets the World" as our primary way of improving engagement.
JT – arms trade / "Arms to Renewables will still be kept under consideration.
JT gave a brief account of his dealing with Barclays Bank over their financing of projects associated with extraction and transportation of oil from the tars sands deposits in western Canada. It had seen a manager at Barclays in Chester, and subsequently sent information by email (copied to committee members). A highly 'corporate' response was received and a rebuttal sent – also copied to committee members. [Information supplied by Greenpeace.]

4 Finance & administration issues, including:

- Current bank balance: the statement for the end of August will arrive later this week, but JT calculates it will show a balance of £507.63. Together with cash from the last Forum collection and cash in hand, our effective balance was **£528.89**. JT paid out expenses incurred at the 25-year celebration and will report revised figures at the Forum meeting.
- 2018 subs: the latest update circulated by JT was discussed and chasing agreed for those deemed likely to pay: **CAMCC ? TG will speak to BP about Quakers. JT will speak to Heather Lannin. GG to chase Neville Jones.**
- Progress with Data Protection and website cookie requirements. Terry was pleased to report that 'spam' messages had stopped. **BP to report more fully to September's Forum.**

5 Arrangements for future Forum meetings:

- 11 September Forum: speaker Stephen Maund will talk about his latest Malawi project. He will need projector and stand.

BP to include an item on MuCAARD donation on the agenda

- 13 November Forum: speaker Anthony McCarthy talking about his volunteer work with “Classrooms in the Clouds” in Nepal.

- TBA: special session on Arms Trade – as noted above, we will try to keep the possibility of an *Arms to Renewables* debate under consideration.

6 CWDF Diary update of 01 September

There were no comments on the diary version circulated with the agenda. JT has very recently sent BP preliminary information about the ‘Chester Palestine Conference’ to be held on Saturday 03 November for inclusion in the diary.

7 Issues from around the table/ AOB:

TG raised the issue of Air Quality – **JT will raise this with Chester Sustainability Forum**

TG: Teresa May’s comments about aid needing to benefit UK business are worrying.

8 Arrangements for next mailing, surface and email:

This is not due to go out until the end of October, so discussion of detailed arrangements should be deferred to the next Committee meeting.

9 Next Committee meeting:

When he circulated the agenda, BP had suggested that this should be on **Monday 08 October**, rather than on the usual first Monday of the month - which would be **1st October**. The Committee wondered if there was a reason for this. Vicki is happy to host the meeting on either date; **7:30pm** as usual. **TG will speak to BP and confirm the date as soon as possible.**