

# Chester World Development Forum



Meeting September 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 at The Unity Centre

*Our regular agenda was preceded by a talk by Stephen Maund, giving an update on his micro-finance initiative in Malawi. Note of Stephen's talk appended to these minutes, including link to pdf version of his PowerPoint presentation.*

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Chairman Terry Green extended a particular welcome to Jude Limb, representing Christian Aid Cheshire and Staffordshire. Other members present were: Margaret Lord and Lindsay Cussons (Baha'is of Chester), Bernard Payne (St Columba's), Matthew Jessop (Quaker Meeting), Katy Rowe (Christian Aid & Chester Friends of Palestine), Brian Rowe (Chester Friends of Palestine), Terry Walsh and Mark Rideal (Chester CND), Tony Walsh and Tom Ormiston (Ellesmere Port Parishes J & P Group), Joseph O'Neil (Chester Stop the War), Gerald Grant, Jean Cornes, Vicki Jenner and our speaker, Stephen Maund, from Capacity Foundation.

Apologies were received from: Ann McCarthy, Gill Miller John Tacon and Brian Turner.

### 2. Minutes of Forum Meetings and Matters Arising

Minutes of the Forum meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> were previously circulated. Matter Arising: Terry reported that Chester City of Sanctuary is developing a strategy and will be launched in November – CWDF members will be informed of the date.

Committee Meetings were held on August 6<sup>th</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup>. These have focussed on our next 25 Years – how to offer mutual support to our member organizations in order to fulfil our aim of Encouraging Local Action for a Fairer World.

### 3. Admin Matters

In the absence of our Treasurer, Terry reported that our Bank Balance is £507.83, with £5.76 cash in hand. With some money owed, the effective Balance is **£473.97**.

There are still some outstanding subscriptions for the 2018 year.

Terry reported that we are still working on the implications of GDPR, particularly with our website. Mike Roberts is providing advice and Bernard is investigating. We are assured that all personal data is secure.

### 4. Supporting Romy Tiongco and the work of MuCAARD-UK in the Phillipines (Muslim Christian Action for Advocacy Relief and Development).

The Committee decision to send £100 to MuCAARD was approved by the Meeting.

### 5. Arrangements for forthcoming events

The Diary issue of September 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 was circulated and will be updated with further information when available.

Around the Table:

Joseph O'Neill gave further details of the "Palestine: Re-framing the Debate" Conference on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Jude Limb encouraged members to use the “Uprooted” display from Christian Aid and also mentioned its Community Partnership Fund.

Lindsay Cussons promoted a talk on Abdu’l Baha on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at Gladstone’s Library.

Tom Ormiston was encouraged by attending the National Justice and Peace Conference in July, with Tony Walsh.

Tom Ormiston is attending a Fringe meeting in Liverpool on social justice.

Tony Walsh and Tom Ormiston are due to start their monthly Quiz nights at Ellesmere Port in aid of CAFOD.

Joseph O’Neill has been invited to the West Bank with an MEP but cannot go.

Matthew Jessop suggested that the Forum should consider sending a donation to the Capacity Foundation, following this evening’s talk.

Bernard Payne is concerned about the prevalence of issues surrounding anti-semitism and the portrayal of Palestinian support equating to this.

Terry Green remarked that Chris Matheson, MP, has recently been on a 3 day Parliamentary visit to Palestine.

Terry reported 3 recent news items by way of encouragement:

Qatar no longer requires all migrant workers to obtain an exit visa to leave the country.

Investors are becoming reluctant to invest in fossil fuels, including fracking.

Canada has halted construction on the Trans Mountain tar sands pipeline.

## **6. Any Other Business**

There was no further business.

## **7. Date of next meeting:**

**Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup> 2018, 6.45pm for 7.00pm at the Unity Centre.**

The Speaker will be Anthony McCarthy on his ongoing work with the project in Nepal “Classrooms in the Clouds”.

# Chester World Development Forum

Meeting Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup> 2018

Speaker: Stephen Maund, the Capacity Foundation



## Notes on Talk

Stephen began by emphasising that Britain is continually fundraising for worthy causes across the World. We have to keep doing this because the economy is so poor in many countries.

Using Malawi as an example, he compared the situation with the UK:

- The UK has a large tax base. Malawi's is tiny.
- The UK has a welfare system. Malawi doesn't.
- Nearly 40% of Malawi's budget is provided by aid.
- Services funded by aid are framed by external agendas.
- Aid necessarily comes with strings but it's restrictive.
- £billions have been spent but at village level it isn't apparent

Often there are beneficial infrastructure projects, but Malawi cannot afford to keep them running when aid stops.

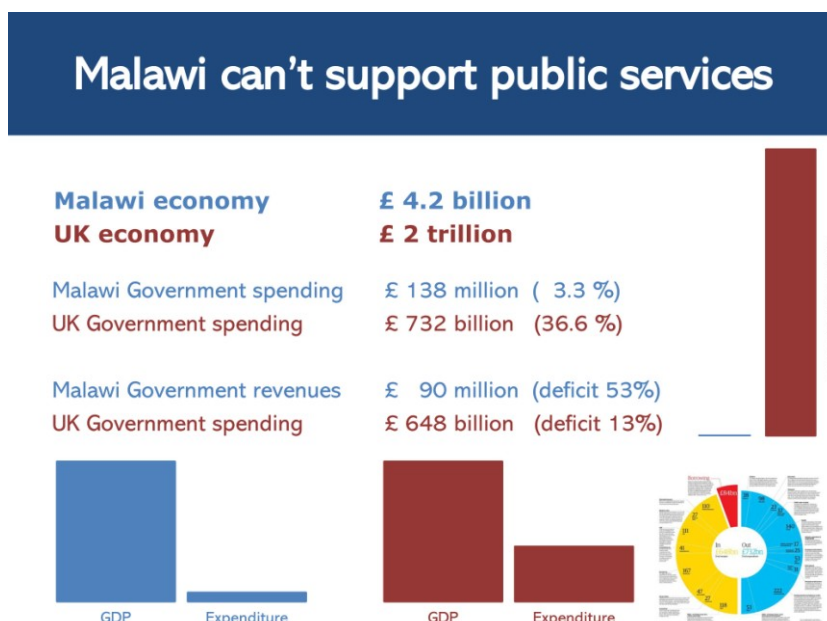
The Capacity Foundation is partly concerned with poverty relief – only 13% of UK Aid is used for this purpose – less than is spent on governance to ensure the money doesn't go missing!

The current income figure for someone in a developing country living in "absolute poverty" is calculated at 97 pence per day ...

...In Malenga Mzoma, an area of Malawi, the income is 48 pence per day. About 80% of families live below the absolute poverty line, with some earning as little as 4 pence per person per day. Such people will have only one meagre meal per day. The main sources of income are fishing and farming.

Capacity Foundation runs a Microloan Programme which stimulates the local economy and provides a fund for community benefit. Financial Loans provide the foundation of the system – these are being run successfully and repaid on time. Further benefits include:

- Adult literacy and numeracy classes enable more people to qualify for training and loans
- Farming Improvement Project aims to boost production, variety and income
- Social enterprises to boost trading



The concurrent Social Action Fund is a kind of 'community chest' controlled by the community. It effectively acts as a tax system and the community as a whole decides how it is spent, for example repairs to infrastructure, school supplies, water security, improved and varied crop production.

For further information: [www.capacityfoundation.org](http://www.capacityfoundation.org)

Link to pdf of Stephen's annotated PowerPoint presentation :

<https://www.chesterwdf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Stephen-Maund-presentation-11-9-18.pdf>