

Chester World Development Forum

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday 1 July 2019 at Vicki's

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

- 2 **Minutes and matters arising:**

- Note of Shantele Janes talk at AGM 14-5-19: Very interesting talk.
- Committee 3-6-19: GG not contacted NJ yet. AM contacted SB, CAFOD, and Lesley, Chester Fairtrading. AM had contacted Chris M prior to climate change lobby in London. He replied that he would do his best to meet us.
BP has contacted Linda and Stewart re talk at Forum meeting next week
Re Jim Holmes – Pauline Payne happened to go to U3A meeting and Jim was giving the talk. BP looked up his website and has emailed him. He agreed to come in Sept or Nov
TG has contacted CM re coming to talk to Forum in Dec but not had reply yet.
LC – contacted Chris Barker to see if someone from Alternative Centre for Technology could come and speak at one of our meetings. Chris has suggested we contact Jane Fisher who works there.
BP will send Jane a general email to see if she's available.
BP photocopied GG's article and sent out.

- 3 **Finance & administration issues, including:**

- Current bank balance: £369.71 at end of May. Still not paid out money to Nick Dearden
- Outstanding 2019 subs – already covered

- 4 **Brief post-mortem of recent activities/ involvements**

- Sat 15th June – FoE Sustainable Chester Spring Fair. VJ went and seemingly was quite well attended. Chester Transition had a stall. BP went for short time. He felt that there could have been a central point for people to go and get information. There were talks but seemed very "amateurish". A good idea would be to have big banner on railings outside the park. Hopefully will happen again next year and possibly will be more time for Forum to organise a stall.
- Thurs 20th June – Refugee Week: LC and TG attended the lecture at Grosvenor Museum. 2 speakers – one from "Umbrella Organisation" in London - Jonathan Ellis. Are now 120 local groups. Sheffield was first. Some schools signed up. The other speaker told stories about refugees and some of the stories were horrendous.
Seemingly the UK is the worst country in Europe for locking up asylum seekers in detention centres. Tiffy Allen, the Network Coordinator for Ireland, has written a book on history of City of Sanctuary. About 50 people attended.
Food event on Sat at the Unity Centre was well attended. A quiz had been organised and showed how so much misinformation out there. 900 people went through photograph exhibition in Chapter House, Cathedral
BP will photocopy booklet – Heritage and Contributions of Refugees to the UK – a credit to the nation

- Wed 26th June – Climate Change Lobby, Westminster: Catherine Green, Colin Watson, Terry Walsh and AM went to lobby. Marched from Trafalgar Square to Houses of Parliament and then waited for Chris to meet us. Helen Tandy from CFoE and about 3 other people, possibly from CFoE were also there. Chris very supportive but said that radical policies on climate change are being blocked by right wing Cons, the same ones who are blocking Brexit. Unfortunately, we were unable to put some of the issues to him because of time limits. The points we were going to make were devised by CAFOD – Catherine and I will email him hopefully before the summer recess with those points. At 2pm we all sounded off our alarm clocks and Chris was there with a rattle! Reports suggest there were 16T people there (but sadly there was no mention of it on the news) and well over 200 MPs were lobbied.
- BP and TG attended CFoP talk by Andrew Herbert on Amos Trust whose main aim is rebuilding of houses in West Bank. Sadly they cannot be sure that the houses are not going to get bulldozed again.

5 Forthcoming events

- Tues 9th July Forum – the Shuttleworths on Climate Change Apathy – all in hand
- Reference to CWDF Diary – **update of 28-6-19 attached: any additions?**
Tuesday 6th Aug - Hiroshima event. Meet at 8 at bandstand in the Groves. Been a message from Margaret Owen – the group are suspending the monthly vigil for time being following the Court of Justice decision re illegality of arms sales to Saudi Arabia

6 Setting plans for 2019/20, including

- Speakers/ topics for September and November Forum meetings. BP will wait to hear from Jim Holmes. **AM to email Louise Gittins to sound her out about coming to speak to us.** (Subsequently it was decided to leave contacting her until we have looked at the paper from CWaC on Climate Emergency)
- Developing a 2020 vision: It was agreed that we should continue with climate change as our main focus, working collaboratively with other interested groups and also trying to engage with youth

7 Issues around the table/ AOB:

BP had replied to John Tacon's note re Fracking inquiry. Now going to Secretary of State for decision

TG: In Guardian on Sat – read a report of a discussion between Greta Thornberg and young lady from US. Very interesting read.

8 Arrangements for next mailing, surface and email. **BP will send out update of diary and note about next meeting on 8th July**

9 Next Committee meeting: **Monday 5th August 7.30pm, Annie's?** *Prior apologies from Vicki*