

# Chester World Development Forum

## Minutes of Committee Meeting held by Zoom session on Monday 8 June 2020:

### 1 **Welcome:** TG chaired the meeting

**Present:** TG, JT, LC, BP, VJ, AM and Gill Miller

**Apologies:** GG

TG welcomed Gill to the meeting

### 2 **Minutes and matters arising:**

- Committee 2-3-20: No matters arising apart from the issue of redesigning the flyer. AM and VJ thought that the writing on the front may look better all in black. JT thought that not enough land mass shown on the world map and he'd like the bottom ends of the 'concern' bubbles to be placed a bit more carefully – they just seem to end in fairly random spots on the globe. For example, the 'food matters' finger could point to the mid-west of USA rather than the wilderness of north east Canada, and 'the natural world' finger could point at the Amazon basin. Also the wording on the back needs to be changed, because there's a lot of repetition around the diary – and it begins with a negative statement. He may try to have a go at re-wording and circulate some suggestions as soon as possible.
- Forum 10-3-20 – including talk on "Jamie's Fund". No matters arising. JT has made donation to Jamie's fund of £25.

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

- Current bank balance. £481.74. AM expenses come to £4.90. JT has no more signed cheques. **BP will call at JT's tomorrow to provide signatures.**
- 2020 subscriptions: No further subs come in since lockdown

### 4 **Implications of Coronavirus lockdown, immediate and longer term:**

- **Immediate:**

Whether to cancel Forum date of Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July? Decision made to cancel this meeting.

  - Re AGM: Do we have a set time for AGM? There is actually no set time for an AGM to be held. However members may expect an up-to-date report and perhaps financial update. It would normally be a time to revise committee members and "officers" but the likelihood of anyone wanting to join the committee is fairly remote. BP suggested that our first "normal" Forum meeting should include the deferred AGM with speaker. Committee agreed.
  - Re meeting with Chris Matheson: Should we make contact by Zoom for the time being and perhaps just with the committee in the first instance? Zoom can be difficult with lots of people. But it can be done - if a large number are taking part then everyone can go on "mute" and press "reactions" when they want to speak. Perhaps we need to see how many members would be prepared to take part in meetings this way. The first step will be to see if Chris would be prepared to hold such a meeting via Zoom. **TG will contact Chris' office.**

GM suggested we need to have a topic in mind for him to talk about. What about racism? How do we begin to understand what it's like to be at the

receiving end of racism? There are some very good teaching materials around for us to look at in advance.

GM will send us resources from “Five Talents”.

Other topics could be future trade deals – having just received the email from TG “Fears of flood of toxic chemicals from US foods”.

(I may have missed any other ideas here so please add to this if necessary) AM

- **Longer term:**

Whether to maintain ambition to hold Food Matters conference in autumn 2020? This cannot go ahead this year. The university is certainly not open for any outside events. Reconsider for 2021. Food poverty and hunger will be high on the agenda – refer to article sent by GM from McKinsey Quarterly magazine entitled “Feeding the World Sustainably”

On what basis to plan a Forum programme for 2020-21?

How to handle concept of social distancing in any gatherings?

Practicalities/ requirements at venues including Unity Centre and University?

At present we don't know whether we'll be able to meet in Sept. There is the possibility of holding meetings via Zoom. GM suggested that **BP send out a survey to see how many members have access to Zoom**. The survey will ask: a) do they have Zoom and b) could they access it on their computers/ phone/ laptop/iPad. GM said she would be happy to pay the £12 a month so that we could use on a non-time limited basis– she could host it as the subscriber but doesn't necessarily have to join meeting.

GM suggested a potential speaker would be Namrata Bhattacharya-Mis [n.bhattacharyamis@chester.ac.uk](mailto:n.bhattacharyamis@chester.ac.uk) – the lady who took over from her at the university.

## 5 Keeping in touch with member groups and individual members:

- Problem of circulating bulletins – very little to say at time of such uncertainty! BP doesn't want to send out too many. He sometimes gets information about events from constituent members just after he's sent the last email out and then has to decide whether to send another email round. Suggestion that BP just sends a bulletin out monthly with the date for when the next bulletin is due in the hope that groups will send him information about events well in advance. If committee meetings are successful with Zoom perhaps we could see if members would want to join the meeting to discuss an important issue. Committee would have to set a time limit.
- Lessons to learn from groups more advanced in use of Zoom etc.? (eg. Chester Friends of the Earth). CFoE recently used Crowdcast to hold their Virtual Reality Sustainable Fair. It appeared to work well and it would be good to know from Helen Tandy how many people took part. JT listened to Fairtrade event which included Susan Flynn from Chifundo and Matthew Sutton from Carpe Diem. In his opinion it appeared to be mostly a sales pitch and was disappointing in that there was no mention of CWaC's Fairtrade Steering Group. AM listened to “Going Zero Waste” – like JT's experience, this was more or less a sales pitch but useful to know what products are available. AM also listened to “Climate Change – The Home Energy Challenge”. This was very interesting – 3 homeowners, Chris Copeman, Mark Thompson and Steve Brewer, who had made changes to their homes in order to achieve net zero. One was based on “Passivehaus Principle” if anyone heard of it? There may be a recording of the session on CFoE website if anyone interested

- How best to keep non-email people in touch? AM happy to continue with surface mail. Recently both Pam Price and Jean Cornes have expressed gratitude at receiving the bulletins even though, on occasion, the information hasn't got there in time for some events. Sadly these people clearly won't be able to participate in Zoon meetings

**6 AOB, including:**

- Responding to Unity Centre appeal. The Centre is struggling for funds as they are not able to hire it out for meetings. They have missed hosting 2 meetings from CWDF already and there should be another one in July. Committee agreed to send £60 to cover some of the costs.
- Sustainability Conference in the Cathedral now planned for 9<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> November. **JT will contact Diane Williams to confirm this**  
Re event on 10<sup>th</sup> November – dance theatre piece created by Claire Henderson Davis 7.30 – 9.00pm. Is this event planned at Storyhouse or the Cathedral?

**7 Arrangements for next Committee meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> July for next meeting by Zoom, 7.30pm**