

Chester World Development Forum



Minutes of Committee Meeting held via Zoom on Monday 1 March 2021

- 1 **Welcome:** A special welcome back to TG who chaired the meeting
Present: TG, BP, JT, AM, LC, GM, VJ and GW

Before we start: a chance to share a few memories of Peter Byrne

BP had prepared a note and some photos for us to share and a few moments silence was held so we could remember Peter in our own way. TG made a short speech in which he expressed thanks to Peter for his great commitment over many years to CWDF and its aims. May he rest in peace.

2 **Minutes and matters arising:**

- Committee 1-2-21 -
 - VJ contacted TG re his willingness to chair the next committee meeting and checked he agreed with the committee decision to cease payments to the Unity Centre
 - BP contacted Mike Roberts re website backup. Apparently it is done automatically on the system. Nothing more needs to be done
 - GW has set up the Twitter page - @world cwdf and has put “posts” on the Facebook page. GW reported that there had definitely been more “engagement” on the Facebook page. She has also included the link for next week’s meeting with Martin Evans
 - GM will send the link round tonight for the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) short courses. Also – re looking at 3 major meetings which taking place this year (UN Food Systems Summit Feb 2021, G7 in June and COP26 in Nov. – see later note
 - JT had sent information re Fairtrade Fortnight to BP to go in the diary
 - BP: Tellus events have been put on the diary for Feb. BP needs the March details. **VJ will send BP the link**

3 **Finance update:**

£533 in bank account. BP now has a “token” from the bank but hasn’t yet been able to activate it. **LC will send JT cheque for Baha’i membership**
Committee agreed to send donation of £60 to DEC specifically for South Sudan. £60 was the chosen amount as this is what we would normally have paid for the hire of the Unity Centre for the Jan and March meetings.
Post-meeting update: BP has activated his token, and bank account balance was **£626.41** on 04/03/21.

4 **Website and Social Media:**

See earlier note re social media. GW not yet had chance to look at website but she’s planning to do it with BP in the summer when she has school holiday

5 **Future CWDF events, Zoom based:**

- **CWDF Forum 7.00pm Tues 9 March:**
“Development interventions and social realities in paddy rice farming, South Senegal” - Talk by Martin Evans, Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience: Coventry University - **reminder to be sent regarding Zoom link for this session**
As regards the business meeting – TG will include an update on social media that GW has done

GW will see if Martin wants a bit more time - up to perhaps an hour instead of 45 minutes because we don't need as much time for the business part of the meeting

Also decided to leave out TG's report back on committee meetings

- **CWDF Forum 7.00pm Tues 11 May:**
Speaker Henry Sidsaph on the theme Miténgo coffee, - tree planting through ethical coffee? Henry is a PhD researcher at the Business Research Institute at the University of Chester.
This meeting is the AGM. 3 things to be done in advance
 - TG to do report.
 - JT to do financial update.
 - Formally acknowledgement of GW and GM joining of the committee
- **CWDF Forum-by-Zoom Tues 13th Jul: "Fair Tax Now"**
Speaker Justin Thacker, Director of the campaign "Church Action for Tax Justice". It calls for fairer national and global tax systems, and puts forward a range of policy proposals designed to make the tax system fairer for all. (CATJ is one of the programmes of ECCR, the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility).

GM suggested it may be possible for us to do Zoom from the Unity Centre which would give us more flexibility in getting speakers. It will depend on their internet. Perhaps a few members of the Committee could go down and explore the possibilities

- Further suggestions for the 2021 programme – possibly to be held on intermediate dates, avoiding "Tellus" Tuesdays?
 - Jim Holmes offer: photographic talk "Humanitarian Vision" – BP will email Jim to see if he could talk between April 12th and 19th (Subsequently Jim has agreed to come on 12th April which means changing the date of the next committee meeting)
 - Selected TED talks – suggested for 7th June. This means June committee meeting changed to 14th June. GM suggested following one that is potentially a bit controversial so that a good discussion should follow. GM will have a look and all committee can look as well. Possibly something on the G7 meeting?
 - Sept 14th – GM to talk on 2021 UN global events

6 **CWDF Diary:** Current version 26-2-21 attached.

7 **AOB/ other matters of interest:**

- Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill – Chris Matheson has not signed. Seems he is on Shadow Cabinet and therefore not allowed to sign. JT had heard that Labour Party not keen to support. It would be interesting to find out why. (Subsequently JT reported that XR Cheshire wrote to Chris Matheson, who indeed did not support the bill, and it will not receive a second reading).
- Update on Fairtrade. CWaC put a note out to all staff to let them know about the reaccreditation
- AM will set up WhatsApp group for committee

8 **Arrangements for next email and surface mail circulations:**

Diary update and note about next week's meeting to go out by email. Mid - March next surface mail to go out once minutes of Forum meeting on 9th March completed

9 **Arrangements for next Committee meeting via Zoom? – date to be decided as first Monday in April is a bank holiday. What about 29th March which is 4 weeks from 1st March?**