

# Chester World Development Forum

## Minutes of Committee Meeting held via Zoom on Monday 29 March 2021 at 7pm



### 1 Welcome: TG chaired the meeting

**Present:** TG, BP, GW, GM, LC, VJ, AM and JT

### 2 Minutes and matters arising:

- Committee held on 1-3-21:
  - Tellus events added to diary
  - LC paid subs for Bahai'
  - Arrangements for Martin Evans' talk sorted
  - TG has drafted the annual report
  - JT will do finance in time for AGM
  - BP has completed arrangements with Jim Holmes
  - TED talks for June – GM recommended one by new head of WTO, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. Very thought-provoking and only 15 minutes long but given in 2016 so could be a little out of date. Suggestion that we watch it together in June as a trial. **GM offered to do synopsis to send round to members before hand and think up some questions. All committee members to think up questions**
  - AM set up WhatsApp group
- Forum held on 9-3-21, with notes of Martin Evans' talk. **TG will send Martin a thank you note**

### 3 Finance update:

JT has received subs from HL and LC giving us a further £22. JT will try and get in touch with bank by phone. **JT will send cheque to DEC. £588 in bank. Updated members list sent round to committee by email.**  
**TG to remind CFoP to pay subs and AM to remind SB.**

### 4 CWDF Annual Report May 2020-April 2021:

Comments:

- Date in title needs to be altered to 2020
- Very comprehensive report on CWDF's year
- Concerns raised about whether should include referral to 2 political issues which emerged last year ie the merger of DfID with the Foreign Office and the reduction in the aid budget. Although these issues of grave concern to CWDF perhaps the annual review is not the place for such comments?
- Following on from that was the issue of whether to mention the Government's Integrated Review in the report.
- Some concerns also raised about the inclusion of the statement on nuclear weapons issue in last paragraph.
- May be more advisable to have a discussion and seek the views of Forum members and then issue a position statement separately to send to Dominic Raab
- Some committee members felt that mention of the Integrated Review was acceptable in the report but that the comments on nuclear weapons could be omitted

**BP and TG will revise the statements before the next committee meeting.**

Finally, BP encouraged the committee to look at the Integrated Review as it contained some very worrying statements

## 5 Future CWDF events, Zoom based:

- **CWDF “extra” 7.00pm Mon 12 April:**  
Jim Holmes photographic presentation – life and times of the Mekong River. VJ will do report make. GW will put 3 posts on Facebook and 2 on Twitter
- **CWDF Forum 7.00pm Tues 11 May:**  
Speaker Henry Sidsaph on the theme “Miténgo” coffee, - tree planting through ethical coffee? GW asked for any suggestions for questions to be given to Henry in advance so he could prepare. Comment made that Malawi didn’t get a mention in The Government’s Integrated Review so it is obviously not seen as strategically important.
- **CWDF Forum-by-Zoom Tues 13<sup>th</sup> 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. Could this be held at the Unity Centre via Zoom.  
**GM offered to go down at end of April and see what the set up is.**
- **CWDF Forum Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Sept: “A Year of Summits”**  
Gill Miller will provide an overview of the major international gatherings that have taken place and are still to take place over the course of 2021 including the G7 and G20 gatherings and, not least “COP 26”
- Further suggestions for the 2021 programme – possibly to be held on intermediate dates, avoiding “Tellus” Tuesdays?
- Selected TED talks – possibly in June??

## 6 Social media update

Update on Facebook - has more page views. 41 people have been reached by posts. 18 post engagements. Twitter – has seen much more engagements. 450 impressions

After discussion in June about the Government’s Integrated Review - post something on Facebook and Twitter

GW recommended we watch “Seaspiracy”. Can watch on Netflix

(Seaspiracy is a 2021 documentary film about the environmental impact of fishing directed by and starring Ali Tabrizi, a British filmmaker. The film is produced by Kip Anderson, director of plant-based diet documentaries Cowspiracy and What the Health).

## 7 CWDF Diary: Current version 28-3-21 attached – no additions.

## 8 AOB:

JT: Fairtrade Steering Group – at the last meeting CWaC joined in. HS has managed to “extract” £1,800 from the Council to focus on getting more engagement with rest of borough. It was reported that the Fairtrade shop made a significant loss last year but it was not quite as bad as expected. Letter has been received from SB asking for support.

TG: Reported on problems in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. Friends of TG are helping out financially with some families who have nothing.

TG: Mentioned Mark Carney’s book “Building a Better World” - sets blame for many of world’s ills – climate change, etc firmly at foot of corporations

KR: Christian Aid hopefully planning an outside event re the climate emergency in the run-up to COP26. Also hope to show a Kenyan film “Thank you for the water”.

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

**BP will send out reminder email about Jim Holmes’ talk plus updated diary and Forum minutes by Easter Tuesday. AM to send out surface mail during Easter Week**

## 9 Arrangements for next Committee meeting. – Mon 26<sup>th</sup> April. Still with Zoom. JT to set up (as GM has another meeting).