

## Hartlepool for Global Peace and Justice - Minutes of Meeting on 13/04/15

**Present** Chris Eddowes(chair), Richard Eddowes, Sheila Deacon, Jennifer Kerridge, Michael Unwin, Martin Green, Irene Green, Keith Gorton

**Apologies:** Bill White, Lynn Fletcher, Susan Atkinson, Diane Wanduragala,

**Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were accepted as a true record.

### **Matters Arising:**

- **Scallop Fishing.** CE had heard that there is a possibility that the managers of the scallop fishing boat would be prosecuted & therefore thought it best not to write to Iain Wright MP at the present time.
- **Campaigns** MG said he had emailed 38 Deg but had not received a reply.

**TTIP** CE questioned how an Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) process operates. In particular, who decides the outcome of a dispute & who has the authority to enforce the decision. KG & MG said that Jude Kirton Darling (MEP) had indicated that it was a non-transparent tribunal staffed by financial arbitrators (30% of whom come from one firm in the City of London). There is no appeal process.

**HUSTINGS** Scheduled for 28 April. CE had emailed all candidates known at the time. Affirmative replies received from I Wright, Green Party, Conservative Party & Philip Broughton (UKIP) but now there is a Liberal candidate & 3 Independents. MG suggested contacting the Council for their contact details. CE said she would put an article in the Hartlepool Mail & that she had produced an advertising poster (the members endorsed the poster).

***Action CE to contact remaining candidates & to put publicity into the Hartlepool Mail.***

The Chairman would be someone from HVDA. Members discussed what questions should be asked. It was agreed that the questions would be:

- Do you agree with & commit to support the 0.7% of GDP for aid?
- Do you support the Climate Change Act?
- What are your views on immigrants in Hartlepool?

Members discussed the format of the hustings. It was agreed that the hustings would start with each candidate being given 2 minutes to explain "why you should vote for me" & that questions should be in written form.

### ***Actions for Hustings***

- ***MG to give CE Radio Hartlepool contact details***
- ***CE to distribute the publicity poster***
- ***MG to ask the question about "Aid"***

**GP&JG FINANCES** IG reported that there was a balance of £357 and suggested that the Group consider how this money should be spent. It was agreed to use the money to

- Finance better publicity of future events
- Finance affiliation to campaigning Groups eg Global Justice Now. (It was unclear if we are still affiliated to Global Justice Now.)
- Keep in reserve so that we can buy replacement equipment eg display stands.

**FUTURE CAMPAIGNING ISSUES** It was agreed that the Group should adopt as longer term campaigns

- Climate Change

- Tax Dodging

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- JK had questioned M&S about Fairtrade clothing products. She had been sent rather confusing (& bulky) documents that referred to the “Better Cotton Initiative” (BCI). Its aims appear to be to help cotton farmers & to protect the environment.

### ***Actions relating to BCI***

- ***MG to ask the Fairtrade Foundation what their views are on BCI.***
  - ***RE to try to make more sense of the M&S reply.***
  - ***All members to view the BCI website & learn more about BCI.***
- MG had received a letter from the Houses of Parliament Outreach Service that publicised an event on 14 June to celebrate rights, freedoms & liberty. The letter suggested that we could organise local celebratory events. Members thought that we might have a tea party at Stranton Church with accompanying bell ringing. Perhaps DW may be able to advise the Group.

***Action MG to email the letter to all members.***

**AOB** Climate Change Protest is in London on 17<sup>th</sup> June.

***Action KG to email all members to find out who is going & if they require rail tickets.***

## **NEXT MEETING**

Monday 11 May

NB CE & RE will not be able to attend