

Hartlepool for Global Peace and Justice - Minutes of Meeting on 9/02/15

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

Apologies: Lynn Fletcher, Susan Atkinson, Diane Wanduragala, Irene Green

Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2015 were accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- **Mare Nostrum.** CE reported that there had recently been 300 more deaths reported of immigrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean. KG said he had recently written to Claude Moraes MEP on behalf of the Group expressing our support for his campaign for an inquiry. KG also said that he had registered with the Labour in Europe newsletter in order that the Group be better informed.
- **General Election Husting** CE reported that we are still waiting to hear if Peter Gowland will chair the husting. Chris Collison will be around at the time of the husting & is a possible reserve.
- **Meeting with Iain Wright.** Meeting was held on 23rd January & notes of the meeting are appended to these minutes. Key points discussed at this meeting were
 - IW's view that HP&JG doesn't have as much impact as previously. Members had some sympathy with IW's views. In the past there had been high profile national single issue campaigns to which the Group could sign on to. More recently the issues had been more diverse & more complicated. It was agreed that there was some merit in adopting a longer term campaign strategy & also in adopting campaigns that were supported by national campaigning groups (supporting material would be more readily available).
Action All Members to look at the issues being pursued by the major campaigning groups so that HP&J Group can discuss longer term campaign strategy at the next meeting.
 - IW's suggestion that the Group should consider adopting local campaign issues. Members acknowledged that some local issues (eg milk) coincided with international issues. However, the Group holds the view that local issues already have campaigning groups & that we should continue to focus on international problems.

Fairtrade Fortnight Runs from 23 Feb to 8 March. MG explained that there will be a stall in the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre on 5 & 6 March. Three tables will be required from St Georges.

Action KG/RE to arrange collection & delivery

Volunteers are required to man the stall.

Action MG to supply Members with a stall rota that indicates gaps still to be filled.

MG had written to the supermarkets re tombola prizes. Sainsburys & Co-op (headland) had agreed to supply some prizes.

There will be a Fairtrade Bus, decorated & fitted out by Middlesbrough Environmental City, that will park in Villiers St from 10 – 11 am on Saturday 7 March. Permission has been granted to have a table in Villiers St & the library has agreed to supply hot water for coffee.

Catcote Academy plan to have a Fairtrade week starting 2 March culminating in a Fairtrade China Cup Tea Party on 6th March (bring your own china tea cup).

There will be a Chocolate Cake Baking Competition. Entries must be at Catcote Academy on Thursday 5th or at the latest by 10.30 am on the 6th when judging will take place. The judge is expected to be Jason Anderson from Hartlepool Radio. There will be 2 broadcast slots on Hartlepool Radio (CE & MG will do). Entry forms are available at Catcote Academy. Tea at Hart (York Rd) & The Cornerstone. The winning cake will be placed on display in the FT Bus alongside the winning cakes from Middlesbrough & Stockton.

Correspondence Jude Kirton-Darling MEP is holding Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) discussion on 18th February at Newcastle & on 21 February (11 am to 1pm) at St Mary's Centre Middlesbrough.

AOB

- NE-CAP are holding their AGM at 17.30 for 18.00 on 2 March in Newcastle, venue to be confirmed.
- Tax Dodging Bill. Members can sign up & send an email to prospective Parliamentary Candidates at www.taxdodgingbill.org.uk
- MU alerted the Group to the plight of sailors that were on board 2 scallop fishing vessels that berthed at Hartlepool. The conditions being experienced by the sailors were intolerable. They were given assistance by various seamen's missions. CE agreed to write to Iain Wright MP on the general problem of seamen's terms of employment..
Action CE to write to I Wright to ask what he can do about the problem & what we can do about it.
- MG said he had received emails from campaigning organisations regarding contacts with local related groups. It was agreed that we should get in touch with local groups.
Action MG to contact local campaigning groups

Next Meeting 9th March at 7.30pm St George's

Appendix

Hartlepool for Global Peace and Justice

Notes of Meeting with Iain Wright MP on 23/01/15

Present Bill White, Sheila Deacon, Chris Eddowes (chair), Richard Eddowes, Irene Green, Martin Green, Keith Gorton

Welcome CE welcomed IW to the meeting.

Topics Discussed

- **Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP).**
The Group explained to IW that their concerns are primarily focussed on the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) because of its threat to democratic decision making. IW asked the Group how they intended to exert pressure on the decision makers. IW confirmed that the Labour Party would be opposing ISDS.
- **Impact of HGP&J Campaigns**
IW questioned whether the Group is having as much impact as in earlier years. The following points emerged in the subsequent discussion:
 - Agreed that the Group is pursuing a relatively large number of issues
 - It was easier in the past to focus on single big issues eg Make Poverty History.

- Current issues were complicated, eg TTIP.
- The Group doesn't have a longer term campaign strategy (IW asked "where does the Group intend to be in one year's time?")
- Although there is a Fairtrade Town Steering Group the HP&J Group provides a lot of help in maintaining the town's Fairtrade Town Status & this places a lot of demands on the Group's resources.
- IW acknowledged that the Group has an "internationalist" outlook but there were now significant & local deprivation issues. Should the Group focus more on these issues?
- IW suggested that the status of women might be a possible longer term campaign.

- **General Election**

IW was alerted to the proposed husting to be hosted by the Group & possible dates for the husting.

IW expressed his views on the likely outcome of the election

- **Tax Avoidance**

IW expressed his concerns about the problem of multinational companies' tax avoidance (Starbucks in particular)

- **Climate Change**

The Group expressed their concern about climate change & that it wasn't clear cut at this time whether fracking should be vigorously opposed.