

Hartlepool for Global Peace and Justice - Minutes of meeting on 9/11/15

Present: Keith Gorton (Chair), Bill White, Lynn Fletcher, Martin Green, Irene Green, Sheila Deacon, Michael Unwin, Jennifer Kerridge

Apologies: Chris Eddowes, Richard Eddowes, Diane Wanduragala, Susan Atkinson,

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

Matters Arising:

Refugee re-settlement

KG reported that he had not received a reply from James Brokenshire. (a response to the inadequate James Brokenshire original reply had been sent it to Iain Wright with a request that he forward it to James Brokenshire.)

KG reported that HBC had replied to the HGPJ letter (to thank them for their support for refugee resettlement & to offer the HGPJ's help). The CEO (Gill Alexandre) had forwarded the letter to Louise Wallace (Director of Public Health).

Labour Party Policy

KG reported that he had not received a reply from I Wright regarding clarification of Labour Party policy on welcoming refugees to the UK.

MSF Hospital Bombing

KG reported that, in a personal capacity, he had written to Iain Wright requesting that he ask the Government why they had not responded to Medecins sans Frontieres request to ask for the International Humanitarian Fact Finding Commission to carry out an independent investigation.

Lynn Fletcher's Visit to Uganda (Interplast UK mission)

LF described her experiences as part of the Interplast UK team that provides training in modern techniques of rehabilitation surgery & provides medical care to people resident outside the United Kingdom and Ireland. She had witnessed remarkable achievements by the team but had also experienced harrowing situations. The members were impressed by her account & IG suggested that HGPJ give a donation to next year's Interplast UK mission. Members agreed.

Pop-Up Shop.

KG reported that he had collected the Pop-Up Shop leaflets & posters from Catcote Academy. They were given to members to distribute to appropriate public institutions.

Action All members to distribute leaflets & posters

LF said that if CE had not found any singers she may be able to help.

MG stated that he is unable to be at the Pop-Up Shop & Fairtrade goods will have to be provided by Cornerstone Café. It is expected that CE will get some Fairtrade goods from Jennie Medhurst & will provide mulled wine. JK asked if HPJG were intending to bake FT cakes. General opinion was that if members wished to do this then the cakes could be sold on the day provided they were delivered to someone who is present on the 5th December. LF said she might be able to bake mince pies.

Fairtrade

MG reported that English Martyrs are to hold a Fairtrade Awards conference for schools on 3 December. It is hoped that as many schools as possible will attend. So far, Hart & Elwick, Barnard Grove, Eskdale had achieved FairAware status.

The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight is food security. It is hoped that during FTF there will be:-

Friday: Schools activity

Saturday: Community activity (coffee/breakfasts etc)

Sunday: Churches activity.

It is expected that there will be a Fairtrade producer in Tees Valley during FTF.

The Vestry Café in Church Square has had its franchise extended to 5 years.

Longer Term Campaigning Issues

- Climate change –
 - KG asked members to contact him if they were intending to attend the Newcastle Climate Change rally on 29th November.
- Tax Dodging – no current issues raised.

Finance

IG reported that the account balance was £351.31 but Pop-Up Shop leaflets & posters had not yet been paid for.

Correspondence

All correspondence has been referred to elsewhere in these minutes.

AOB

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Is on Monday 14 December at St Georges at 7.30 pm
(NB KG & LF will not be able to attend)