



## Minutes of Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Present: Sheila Deacon, Lynn Fletcher (minutes), Martin Green (chair), Irene Green, Jennifer Kerridge, Diana Wanduragala, Bill White

Apologies: Chris Eddowes, Richard Eddowes, Keith Gorton

1. Minutes of meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – accepted as correct record, except that times of Catcote School event on 4<sup>th</sup> March were 9:30 – 11:30.
2. Matters arising:
  - a) The meeting with Iain Wright is still to be arranged by Chris
  - b) Chris is to report on the Global Justice Now meeting that she attended in London re Public/Private Partnerships
  - c) Fairtrade Fortnight – Martin gave a very positive report:
    - i. Big Breakfast at Catcote School 4<sup>th</sup> March went very well, more than 80 people attended, including Iain Wright, 10 competition entries, an article in the Hartlepool Mail
    - ii. Northern regional meeting 4<sup>th</sup> March went well – and Martin received an award as the “Most Inspiring Fairtrade Supporter of 2015”
    - iii. Good support from the Vestry Café and some churches and schools – including two new schools
    - iv. Stall in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre could only be opened for one day rather than two due to insufficient volunteers to man it, but almost £100 worth of goods were sold and around 30 quiz competition entries were completed.
  - d) TTTIP – Diana reported that she had visited her ward councillor and understands that a councillor by the name of Stephen Thomas is willing to come and talk to this group about TTIP. Chris to be asked to invite him.
  - e) NE-CAP – Lynn gave a brief report on the content of the AGM, noting that the attendance of Chris and Richard and Chris’s report on our group’s activities were very much appreciated by David Golding and the NE-CAP committee. David had recommended “Toilet Twinning” and the “Big Switch” as campaigns worthy of support.
3. Financial report – Irene gave the balance in hand as £354.31, noting the intention to give a donation of £50 to Interplast UK.

4. Current campaigns – Chris had left cards for the group to consider supporting Jubilee Debt Campaign “Don’t set a new debt trap – new MP Action” and Global Justice Now “Growing Power”. In relation to the latter, group members felt that they did not have enough information on the “Independent Commission for Aid Impact” and the “New Alliance” and Lynn offered to find out more and share with the group. (See notes below – full information is available on relevant websites)
5. Any other business – Jennifer noted that the Observer had run an article about cheap jeans at Lidl
6. Date of next meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

<http://icai.independent.gov.uk/about-us/>

Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) scrutinises official UK aid spending for international development. We are independent of government and report to the International Development Committee of the UK Parliament. We undertake independent reviews of UK aid spending and its contribution to development results. Our work contributes to the accountability of UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) on behalf of the UK taxpayer, by examining whether UK aid is delivering value for money. We work closely with the International Development Committee, to which we report. When we publish a report, the government is required to publish a management response setting out how it will respond to our recommendations. The International Development Committee’s Sub-committee on ICAI then holds an evidence session on the report. Members question us on our findings and then DFID officials on their response to what we have found.

<https://new-alliance.org/>

Launched in 2012, the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition set out to:

- Reaffirm continued donor commitment to reducing poverty and hunger
- Accelerate implementation of key components of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)
- Leverage the potential of responsible private investment to support development goals
- Help lift 50 million people out of poverty in Africa by 2022
- Achieve sustained inclusive, agriculture-led growth in Africa

<http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/new-alliance-food-security-and-nutrition>

Launched in 2012, the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition provides aid money from rich countries like the US and the UK, and helps big business invest in the African agricultural sector. But in return, African countries are required to change their land, seed and trade rules in favour of big business. The New Alliance will:

- Make it easier for big corporations to grab land in Africa.
- Prevent farmers from breeding, saving and exchanging seeds.
- Heavily promote chemical fertilisers and pesticides, which increase farmers’ risk of debt as well as damaging the environment and farmers’ health.
- Replace family farms with low paid, insecure jobs.
- Prevent countries from restricting crop exports, even at times of domestic shortage