

Hartlepool Global Peace & Justice Group Minutes of meeting on 10/10/2016

Present: Martin G, Lynne, Christine & Richard E, Bill Wright, Jenny, DianaW.

Apologies: Keith Gorton.

Minutes of last meeting: accepted. (CITA > CETA)

- **Matters arising:** Keith wrote a letter to the chief executive, HBC, on 6/10/16 re tax dodging: tougher questions re tax compliance with businesses used by the council; requested new tax compliance clause in their procurement policy. copy sent to Cllr S Thomas.
 - There has been no communication from Churches Together re a service during One World Week, so one has not been arranged.
 - Speak Up Campaign visit to School Wycliffe Solar Farm, DL5.6QE on 23/10/16, 9.30am. The MP for Sedgefield, Phil Wilson, will be in attendance. The group was not clear as to the purpose of us attending - not our constituency or MP. Anyone wanting to go, contact Keith.
 - CETA: Keith contacted our MEP & circulated the response. Seems that this agreement with Canada is likely to be signed this month.
 - Paul Brannen, MEP: Regarding any transatlantic trade agreements - "We oppose a deal which would fail to protect public services, including the NHS, or could weaken any of our labour, health or food standards, including private tribunals for multi-nationals".
 - Lynne suggested individuals could also contact our MEPs to register concerns.
 - **Fair Trade:** Virgin Money have installed hot drink facilities using FT sugar sticks & Ft Clipper coffee & tea .
 - M & S have an 'own brand' range of FT chocolate.
 - The Fair Trade Schools initiative is doing well. Throston, Elwick, Barnard Grove, Catcote.
 - Fair for Schools event planned for 23/6/17, to show what they are doing. Cathy Wise from the Fair Trade Foundation is coming.
 - Fair Trade website is being allowed to expire. It will rely on its Twitter & Facebook accounts.
 - Co-op are proposing to close all 3 of Hartlepool's local shops. As we have been issued with new membership cards, perhaps we should be writing to enquire where they anticipate us using them!
 - National Trust are using FT tea in their cafés.
 - There is a new Northern region FT representative, from Keswick.
 - FT event at Eaglescliffe on Saturday, 22/10/16.
 - There is currently a campaign to promote fair gold.
 - FT Fortnight 27/2/17-12/3/17 "It's Time to Put Fair Trade in your Break". Resources at fairtrade.org.uk
 - FT & recycled silver products available at Ethical Superstore
 - **AOB:** Chris E reported that URC synod had a report from Andy Lie who went as an observer to Palestine. Could we arrange for him to come as a speaker to Churches Together?
 - NECAP: Lynne reported that "Save Drudge Bay Campaign" will be obliged to fund their legal challenge.
 - Martin has an invitation to the Nazir Mosque for a Peace Conference at 3pm on 6th November. Bishop Mark will be one of the speakers. Martin will circulate the details. Contact him if you wish to attend so that he can include you with his acceptance.
 - **Our Christmas Fair Trade coffee morning will take place on Saturday, 3rd December, 10am-12noon.**
 - AGM postponed to January.
- Date of next meeting:** 8/11/16