

# HARTLEPOOL FOR GLOBAL PEACE AND JUSTICE

## Minutes of meeting on 14/11/16

**Present:** Chris Eddowes (Chair), Richard Eddowes, Diane Wanduragala, Martin Green, Keith Gorton, Bill White

**Apologies:** Lynn Fletcher, Irene Green,

**Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were accepted as a true record.

### **Memories of Sheila Deacon**

CE expressed the feeling, shared by all the members, of deep regret at Sheila's passing. Sheila had been instrumental in setting up Hartlepool for Peace & Justice and had been a dedicated member until her death. She was meticulous in her minute writing & other administrative tasks and "kept us right". She always went to the rallies and had intended to go to the latest climate change (solar farm) event. We will miss her & her contribution to HGPJ very much.

### **Matters Arising**

- **Solar Farm Visit.** Attended by MG, KG, Susan Atkinson. Jeremy Cane & family were also present but unfortunately Iain Wright couldn't attend. The solar farm, owned by Light Source, has an installed capacity of 5 MW & cost £5M to build. Unfortunately, due to the reduction in Government financial support, no further installations are planned except possibly where a solar farm is dedicated to providing power to an industrial factory. Phil Wilson MP spoke in support of solar power.  
MG had written to Iain Wright on the need for sustainable energy.
- **Andy Lie (Palestine Observer).** CE had written to him to invite him to address a meeting to which Churches Together will be invited.
- **Visit to Mosque.** Five people went (CE, RE, WW, JW, MG). All 3 speakers, Iain Wright, Imam of London, Bishop of Jarrow), very good. About 80 – 100 people present. Farad Ali, member of the Mosque indicated they would be happy to distribute information about HGPJ. CE agreed to write something & MG would send it to Farad Ali.  
**Action: CE & MG to draft information & send to Farad Ali**
- **Tax Dodging** KG tabled the response by HBC to HGPJ's letter asking them to modify Council procurement policies in order to ensure tax compliance by contractors. HBC's response explained that the Government had recently implemented new public service procurement requirements. These requirements mandate the use of a new Standard Selection Questionnaire which effectively requires suppliers to show compliance with tax legislation. As it wasn't clear whether this meets the aims of Christian Aid's tax dodging campaign KG agreed to seek advice from Christian Aid.  
**Action: KG to ask CA if HBC's response meets the campaign objectives**
- **CETA (Trade Agreement).** KG said that following Belgium's agreement to support CETA, the Agreement has come before the EU Parliament. It was not known what changes had been made to CETA, whether a vote had been taken & if it had, how our MEPs had voted. KG agreed to find out.  
**Action: KG to ascertain current status of CETA & MEPs' voting.**

### **Trade Agreements**

Members recognised that Trump's future influence on trade agreements is unclear. MG said that he had been contacted by Adam Gardener of the Fairtrade Foundation. He said that that FF were very worried about the influence of Liam Fox (Gov Minister responsible for trade deals). There were opportunities in bi-lateral agreements that could help small producers although it could go the other way. FF is looking at how they can best influence future trade deals.

### **Fair Trade**

MG reported

- The FT shop in Middlesbrough is now open. **Jenny Medhurst needs helpers in the shop.**
- FT Schools' Fayre is on 23 June. Many schools have indicated their interest.
- Mark Rycroft (Middleton Grange shopping centre manager) has indicated interest in attending HGPJ meetings.

- FT Fortnight. Theme is “Put FT into your Break”. A biscuits/cookies baking competition is planned.
- The FT Town Steering Group is now using Facebook & Twitter to disseminate FT information. CE said she would try to post information on Facebook about Jenny Medhurst’s shop & the St Georges Pop-Up shop (3<sup>rd</sup> December).

#### **AOB**

- KG reported that the Elwick Rd Co-op is selling Tate & Lyle FT granulated sugar.
- KG asked all members to write to the Co-op to request that they should keep at least one Co-op store open in Hartlepool.

**Next Meeting** 12 December 19.30 hours at St Georges **with mince pies !**