

# HARTLEPOOL FOR GLOBAL PEACE AND JUSTICE

Minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Present: Chris Eddowes, Richard Eddowes, Keith Gorton, Bill White, Jennifer Kerridge, Lynn Fletcher

Apologies: Martin Green, Irene Green, Michael Unwin

Minutes of the July meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

## Matters arising.

- CE had written to Mike Hill MP (by letter to the local Labour Party office) inviting him to meet us. He had replied to say that he was happy to do that but he could not attend this meeting. He indicated that he was proud that Hartlepool had a campaigning group. It was agreed that CE contact him again & invite him to meet at any time that is convenient for him.

### ***ACTION: CE to arrange meeting with Mike Hill***

KG said that he had written to him 3 times (using his House of Commons email address) but had only received an automated reply. *(Post meeting: KG has received a letter from Mike Hill that repeats his reply to CE).*

When HGPJ do meet Mike Hill then a photo should be taken of him holding the 'MPs against Climate Change' tee shirt provided by David Golding.

- CE expressed her reservations about Christian Aid's campaign "Big Switch". It is problematic to make representations to a bank if you are not a member of the bank.

## Fairtrade

The recent trend by manufacturers (eg Mondelez) & retailers (eg Sainsbury's) to replace Fairtrade products with their own "fairly traded" products is worrying. CE noted that there is a Fairtrade Supporters Conference on 7 October in London. In view of these concerns it is highly desirable that a member of HGPJ attends the conference.

## Jubilee Debt Campaign

CE alerted members to the JDC "Global Britain: Exporting Healthcare Debt" This campaign highlights the fact that the UK government is actively promoting Public Private Partnerships to other countries. In the UK, this model (termed Private Finance Initiative) has landed hospitals & health trusts with unpayable debts. It was agreed that the JDC postcard be sent to the Secretary of State for Health & that members of HGPJ make representations via the JDC website.

## Future Campaigns

There appears to be a political lull in campaigning issues due to the problems arising from Brexit & the Trump presidency. It was agreed that members of HGPJ need to identify key campaigning issues not least because, at the forthcoming meeting with Mike Hill MP, HGPJ needs to express its campaigning priorities. Priorities will be discussed at the next HGPJ meeting.

***ACTION: All members consider which of the current campaigns are most important to HGPJ.***

Correspondence & AOB: - None

Next Meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September