

HARTLEPOOL FOR GLOBAL PEACE AND JUSTICE

Minutes of meeting held on 11th September 2017

Present: Chris Eddowes, Richard Eddowes, Keith Gorton, Bill White, Jennifer Kerridge, Martin Green, Michael Unwin

Apologies: Irene Green, Lynn Fletcher

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

Matters arising.

- CE had written to Mike Hill MP but had not received a reply regarding a mutually convenient date for a meeting. KG had received a reply from Mike Hill indicating his desire to continue the close links we had with I Wright.
Secretary's note: Following the meeting, CE has received a response from Mike Hill and a meeting has been arranged for Thursday 21 September at 1.30 pm in the St Georges coffee shop.
- Members had been asked to identify the major campaigns that HGP&J should focus on. See later discussion.

Fairtrade

- The Fairtrade Conference is on Saturday 7 October 2017, 10.45am - 5.30pm King's College London, 150 Stamford Street, Waterloo, SE1 9NH and **will include a discussion 'What is the future for the Fairtrade Mark?' with a panel of experts, chaired by BBC Newsreader and journalist George Alagiah.** Daniel Measor (Youth Council & FTTSG member) has indicated he is interested in going. KG may be able to go.
- MG raised a concern that Green & Black's chocolate makes, contrary to expectations, no reference to Fairtrade on the back of the packaging. It was expected that there would be a statement "Fairtrade Approved".

Campaigns

- CE reported that **Global Justice Now** are running 3 major campaigns:
 - Access to Medicine – focuses on the excessive cost of drugs & the pharmaceutical companies defence of high development costs.
 - Trade Democracy – the need to ensure that Brexit trade deals do not disadvantage poorer countries.
 - Migrants Welcome - fighting to resist harmful government policies as well as expose unacceptable media narratives and present more honest coverage of migrants.

KG suggested that Trade Democracy is an issue that will become more important as Brexit negotiations proceed & should be supported by HGP&J.

- CE highlighted the **Traidcraft** campaign to stop Sainsbury's dropping the Fairtrade logo from it's own products. Should HGP&J demonstrate outside Sainsbury's stores with a giant mug? MG had reservations about this because Sainsbury's had been a major supporter of FT Fortnight in Hartlepool. A letter delivered to the manager of each of the Sainsbury stores may be more appropriate.

ACTION: CE to obtain Traidcraft campaign resources

- KG said that he had looked at current campaigns organised by several campaign groups

- **Christian Aid:** Welcoming refugees, Big Shift (moving away from fossil fuels), no current campaign on tax dodging.
- **Jubilee Debt Campaign:** PFI Health Schemes, Africa's debt crisis
- **CAFOD:** Renewable energy, supporting human rights, refugee crisis
- **Oxfam, Save the Children, Campaign Against Arms Trade:** Yemen crisis & UK's involvement

KG felt that the Yemen humanitarian crisis was so serious that this should be a campaign supported by HGP&J. KG agreed to look into this.

ACTION: KG to find more information on the Yemen campaigns.

Finance

MG reported that HGP&J has a balance of £273.31

Correspondence

Dealt with in other discussions.

AOB

CE raised the question of whether HGP&J should organise a Christmas pop up shop this year in view of the number of customers that visit the shop. KG asked if the location was the problem. Could collaboration with the Catcote Metro shop in the Middleton Grange shopping centre be a possible way of attracting more customers? MG agreed to look into it.

ACTION: MG to investigate if there could be collaboration with Catcote Metro.

Next Meeting Monday 9th October 7,30 pm St Georges