

HARTLEPOOL FOR GLOBAL PEACE AND JUSTICE

Minutes of meeting held on 14th January 2019

Present: Lynn Fletcher, Martin Green, Bill White, Mary Waldmeyer, Michael Unwin, Keith Gorton, Jennifer Kerridge

Apologies: Chris Eddowes, Richard Eddowes, Irene Green,

Minutes Minutes of the meeting on the 17th December were accepted as an accurate record except that MU's apologies for absence should have been recorded.

Matters arising.

- **Recycling Meeting** KG reported that he had sent Helen Beaman an email asking if there had been any progress in identifying HBC representatives for the meeting planned for February & if a mutually convenient date had been set. There had been no reply, so KG had telephoned HB and she explained that she was awaiting a reply from her manager. She suggested that KG contact him directly. KG had emailed Tony Hanson but no reply had been received to date.
- **Green Great Britain Week (GGBW) 15–19 October.** KG tabled the results of Leeds University's analysis. LF explained that the purpose of the survey was to get a feel for what people think about climate change. The results showed a high level of awareness & possible personal actions to mitigate global warming. These scores were higher in the on-line survey & LF said this was to be expected because the on-line respondents were probably people who were already seriously concerned. The forthcoming NE-CAP meeting may inform us whether there is to be a follow up to the survey.
- **Traidcraft Shop.** Several members had signed up to help in the shop. The shop was open until 22 December. Jenny Medhurst has reported that over the 4½ weeks there had been a turnover of just over £30,000 – a remarkable achievement).

Fairtrade

- MG reported that Hartlepool FTTSG & Fairtrade Futures will meet on 16 & 17 January respectively & that plans for Fairtrade Fortnight should become more clear at those meetings. At the present time there are plans to prepare a FT recipe book & for Hartlepool to organise a Cocoa Creation competition. A town centre venue is still to be decided (the Art Gallery cannot be used as there is a major exhibition taking place on the 8 March). LF asked if St Georges could be used. MG said it had not been decided if there will be a stall in the shopping centre.
- MG said that he had received an encouraging reply from HBC Chief Executive to his concerns about the Council's lack of support for FT. HBC confirmed their desire to retain FT Town status.
- MG had contacted the manager of the Royal Navy Museum (Hartlepool) & this had prompted a response from the catering company in which they indicated interest in selling FT products.
- MG stated that there are two new Starbucks cafes which sell FT coffee.
- MG was questioned about the involvement of the colleges in FT. The FE College was involved at one time but due to staff changes & the Café Rapport bar losing its franchise there is currently no FT involvement.
- Traidcraft aim to produce a new catalogue in March.
- KG & MG referred to a recent Financial Times article on FT in which it compared the situation in 2009 (when large companies realised that there was a large customer demand for FT products) with 2017 (when large companies decided to diversify & consequently started to market their own "fairly traded" products. See <https://www.ft.com/content/83247fda-e0f1-11e8-a8a0-99b2e340ffeb> for more information.

NE-CAP

LF reported that the objections to the proposed coal extraction at Druridge Bay were being actively pursued. NE-CAP had not met since the last HGPJ meeting but is due to meet at the end of January. However, David Golding had sent out an email on good news that we should be encouraged by (see Appendix to these minutes).

Jubilee Debt Campaign/ Global Justice Now

- KG reported that he had written, on behalf of the members of HGPJ, to Mike Hill MP asking him to support JDC's campaign on Debt Transparency.
- KG referred to the recent Global Justice Now communication "Our plan for 2019 – and your role in it", This provided some very helpful advice on campaigning issues that HGPJ might pursue in 2019.
- KG questioned whether HGPJ is a member of JDC & GJN. MG said that we are members of JDC but not GJN.
- MW said that she had been talking to a member of Global Justice Now (Scotland) & apparently GJN give very good bottom up support for campaigning groups.
- LF referred to the recent email from JDC on the subject of \$2 billion odious loans to Mozambique. KG agreed to write to Government Minister John Glen to ask that the UK fully investigates the role of UK Banks in the scandal.

Correspondence

None other than that referred to elsewhere.

AOB

- LF brought to the attention of the members the recent BBC article "**Climate change: Where we are in seven charts and what you can do to help**" in which there are impressive graphics that show how significantly climate changes are progressing.
(see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46384067>)
- KG said he had recently changed energy supplier & that members might be interested in the fact that several companies offer the option of signing up to electricity from renewable sources for a relatively small supplementary cost.

Next Meeting Monday 11 February at 7,30 pm, St Georges

Actions from this meeting

- KG agreed to keep in contact with HBC in order to arrange a "Rubbish Meeting"
- KG agreed to write to Government Minister John Glen to ask that the UK fully investigates the role of UK Banks in the scandal.

Appendix: Good News (from David Golding)

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Our sincere thanks for your collaboration this year and our warmest good wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas! If you do nothing else, PLEASE DO READ the words of encouragement from one of our Patrons, Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham, below.

FROM BISHOP PAUL

“The journey to healthy sustainable development which protects the earth and helps lift people out of poverty is long. It will have its setbacks and twists and turns. It needs people who will keep going. Thank you for faithfully persevering with seeking the wellbeing of all creation.”

GOOD NEWS ON NUMBERS IN POVERTY The number of people living in absolute poverty has been more than halved over the last decade - reduced from 20% in 2008, to 9.5% now. [Figures from World Bank.] *“It’s important not to be complacent, but the halving of absolute poverty in a single decade is a stupendous achievement!”* (Mona Chalabi, Royal Statistical Society’s ‘Statistics of the Year’)

GOOD NEWS ON CHILD MORTALITY 5.4 million children died in 2017, compared to 12.6 million in 1990 - a reduction of 57%. On average, 15,000 children died every day in 2017, compared to 34,000 in 1990.

Never in human history have we seen such progress – and this despite the terrible conflicts and environmental disasters we are seeing at present! And the global figures hide some remarkable successes: away from the conflicts, in 74 countries, the mortality rate has been reduced by more than two-thirds.

INSPIRING LEADERSHIP BY GRETA THUNBERG (age 15) Message by Greta Thunberg (age 15), at the Climate Summit in Katowice, Poland, to world leaders:

“You say you love your children above all else, and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes. You’re not mature enough to tell it like it is - even that burden you leave to your children!”

Gulp! We hear you, little one, and will, ourselves, try to be worthy of your leadership.

FINALLY...!

Finally, feeling discouraged by the forces arrayed against us? Read the words of a truly great man (below) and let them, and sentiments like them inspired by your faith, be your guiding principle throughout the year to come.

With every good wish,

David & NE-CAP’s Coordinating & Resources Committee

“They want us to believe there’s no chance of success, but whether or not there’s hope of change is not the question. If you want to be a free person, you don’t stand up for right because it will work, but because it is right. We must continue living as decent people.” (Andrei Sakharov, Soviet dissident and Nobel Peace Prize winner, c. 1970s)