

HARTLEPOOL FOR GLOBAL PEACE AND JUSTICE

Minutes of meeting held on 10 June 2018

Present: Chris Eddowes, Richard Eddowes, Bill White, Martin Green, Keith Gorton,

Apologies: Irene Green, Mary Waldrmeyer, Michael Unwin, Lynn Fletcher, Diana Wanduragala

Minutes Minutes of the meeting on the 13th May were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising.

- **Traidcraft's 40th Birthday** will be celebrated at a coffee morning at St Georges on 15th June.
- **Global Healing Film.** LF had emailed to that she would try to arrange a film evening at West View Baptist Church and would report progress in due course.
- **National Climate Lobby of Parliament 26th June.** L Fletcher, Susan Atkinson, Jeremy Kane & Richard Eddowes are planning to go. SA had written to Mike Hill MP but so far had not received a reply.
- **Accounts.**
 - CE said that it was 2 months since HGPJ agreed to affiliate to JDC but not sure if we have. CE still has the form but can't remember if IG gave her a £20 cheque. MG agreed to check with IG & cheque & application can be sent off.
 - Raising money for HGPJ. It was agreed that members attending HGPJ meetings, starting in July, would be invited to contribute £1.

Global Strike 20-27 September. LF had emailed to give advance notification. Global Climate Strike mobilisation is a joint response by a broad coalition of groups, NGOs, unions and social movements across the world to young people's call to action for September.

Extinction Rebellion LF had emailed David Golding's response to criticism of the XR demonstrations (see appendix to the minutes).

AOB

- JK had received a letter from Burma Campaign in which they were seeking donations to support their efforts to put financial pressure on the Burmese Military.
- MG said that he was assembling data for the FT Town Renewal. He asked members to identify organisations that used FT products:
 - Cafes
 - Retailers
 - Workplaces
 - Community organisations other than the Council.
 - Places of Worship.

Next Meeting Monday 8 July at 7,30 pm, St Georges

APPENDIX

Comments on XR Actions, London, April '19

More 1,000 people arrested; few charged. Not one police officer hurt.

Olympic gold medallist, Etienne Stott, arrested on Waterloo Bridge, 20.04.19:

"I don't think there is anything more meaningful that I could be doing in my life right now... I'm willing to use everything I can try and make the situation better."

Michelle, aged 30, from St Helen's, said: "I agree with some of the points, but I disagree with the methods."

So what 'methods' have **you** been using, Michelle?! And how do you answer those who have used the more normal, law-abiding methods for the past 15 years and have precious little to show for the enormous efforts they've made?

Cresida Dick, Metropolitan Police: "Lots of people have had a miserable disruption to their lives."

Indeed they have, Commissioner, and the protesters repeated expressed their regret for this. What you said was right and appropriate, given your responsibilities, but unless you're completely blinkered and ignorant, you could and should have added, *"But I realise that unless we give the environmental crisis the attention it deserves, life in many parts of the world will become a veritable hell on earth, and the maintenance of order here in the UK may well become impossible."*

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London: "I share the [protesters'] passion about tackling climate change... but this is counter-productive to the cause... It simply isn't right to put Londoners' safety at risk like this... This is now taking a real toll on our city – our communities, businesses and police."

"I share the [protesters'] passion" - this is a bit rich! When was the last time he expressed his 'passion' about climate change?

"This is counter-productive" – this is ridiculous! How could peaceful, non-violent actions like this, which brought more attention to climate change worldwide in one brief week than it has received during the last 15 years of our 'Oh so nice' campaigning, and resulted in votes in the favour of declaring a 'State of Climate Emergency' in the parliaments of the UK, Scotland, Wales and Ireland be counter-productive?

"This is now taking a real toll on our city – our communities, businesses and police."

It was right that, as Mayor of London, he expressed his concern about the diversion of police resources, etc., as a result of these actions, but he could and should have added, *"But I realise that the disruption involved pales into utter insignificance compared with that which will result from run-way climate change, which is where we're heading right now as a result of the failure of political leaders, world-wide."*

"So I commit myself, as Mayor of London, to raising this issue at every possible opportunity and will champion the declaration of a state of climate emergency by the London City Council. I will also give the highest priority to policies designed to mitigate the causes of climate change, without regard to possible adverse impacts on my own career which may result."

Now that, Mayor, would have shown 'passion'!

The Guardian, 19.04.19: Article critical of XR by Andre Spicer, but towards the end described *"The 'Radical Flank Effect', when extreme groups make us aware of the problem, forcing the authorities to work with more moderate movements to create solutions."*

Which is where the Climate Coalition's lobby of Parliament comes in!