MONTROSE FAIRTRADE FORUM
Minutes of meeting held on Thursday, January 12th 2017 at 16.00pm Montrose Academy
Present: Ian Sykes, Lynne Ogg, Edith Fraser, Kelly Ann Dempsey

1. Apologies: received from Pam Robinson, Pamela Manley
2. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of October 28th were approved and signed.
3. Matters Arising: These would be dealt with under subsequent headings
4. Fairtrade Fortnight 2017
There was discussion about the AGM, speakers and possible events. PR is waiting to hear about a producer for this year's event. KAD told the group about intentions to hold two zone events. The Forfar Farmer's market was a possibility for a curry making event and a wine tasting/quiz was a further choice. LO offered support for the event and it was decided that an event in Montrose could also be badged for the zone and KAD would invite the other town groups. PR to explore dates for the event and IS to book venue. A meeting would be held on 30th Jan to finalise details.

5. Member Updates
a) Council: KAD had held a Zone meeting in Nov 2016. Continues to maintain and add all minutes on the Angus Council website. KAD had been making zone plans for FT Fortnight.
b) Churches: MCT rep EH continues to make contact with the individual Church reps to monitor activity within the churches. It was noted that the FT Action Group will be attending the farmers market 5 times per year.
c) Businesses and Retailers: There was discussion of working with Madison's that is committed to FT in the town. Aldi is to open in July and has a good range of FT goods.
d) Education: There was discussion about the need for education to be represented on the Forum, in order to fulfil the conditions for our status as a Fairtrade town. It was suggested that a solution may be to hold the forum meetings at a time that coincides with primary school FT cafes. This would allow the group to meet the community more and build better links with the primary schools. Attendance at different cafes a possibility. KAD to circulate a list from Alita Spink detailing the FT activities in the town. A decision to follow.
e) Flagship Employer: LO told the group about recent support she had given a Forfar church and FT zone group providing a range of FT chocolate for an event with brownies. LO also offered her support during FT Fortnight and for opportunities to develop social media.
f) **Community Groups:** No updates.
g) **Website:** No updates. There was discussion about the current websites value and questions about the possibility of using the Angus Council website as is done currently and a new twitter account to reach as wide an audience as possible.
f) **Publicity:** The usual press release could be issued for FT Fortnight. There was much discussion about a twitter account. KAD to research other twitter accounts and offered to set one up. There would have to be commitment either from the secretary to maintain it or another group member. Perhaps two members could have access to the account. EF expressed an interest and is quite active with Facebook. It was agreed it would be good to have an account set up to promote FT activities if the group are keen. KAD to send on more info.

5. **Archivist’s Report:** PS reported that he had only filed the October minutes, and felt that there should be some information about the origins of Fair Trade in Montrose, as it was now the 10th Anniversary of the campaign.

6. **Treasurer’s Report:** The Forum bank account stands at £347.52, £31.53 of which is Action Group surplus, and can be used to pay for attendance at farmer’s market by the Montrose FT Action Group. The Action group is holding £155.20 of stock at cost price, so the group is just breaking even.

7. **Any Other Business:**

10yr of campaigning…The Forum has not yet received notification about a speaker for this year’s AGM, and Peter suggested that we might think about a display/talk about the beginnings of the campaign. This has not yet been decided. There is some discrepancy about the dates, and the website gives 2005 as the beginning of the campaign.

8. **The next general meeting will be held on February 16th 2017 at 4pm at the Montrose Academy. Please come if you can.**

A separate FT Fortnight Planning meeting was held at 10.30 am at Montrose Sports Centre on Monday 30th January. Minutes of this meeting will follow.

Please inform the secretary as soon as possible if you are unable to attend the meeting on February 16th.