

MONTROSE FAIRTRADE FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on **Thursday, August 31st 2017 at 4.00pm at Madison's, Montrose High Street**

Present: Ian Sykes, Lynne Ogg, Edith Fraser, Dennis Laidlaw, Pam Robinson

1. **Apologies:** received from Kelly Ann Dempsey
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of June 29th were approved and signed.
3. **Matters Arising:** These would be dealt with under subsequent headings

4. Member Updates

a) Council: KAD left the following updates for the meeting: 1. She would be going to the Scottish Fair Trade Forum supporters' day in Perth on September 2nd.

2. There was a FT Zone meeting arranged for September 12th in Forfar.

3. She was busy updating the FT pages on the website, there was a new web platform.

4. Angus zone status renewal needed to be done by the end of 2017; she was beginning to pull information together.

b) Churches: There had been hardly any news again from the churches, in spite of repeated emails. EF said that all church reps had been contacted before July and September Farmers' markets, asking for support for FT stall. More support than usual had been noticed in June, hopefully the same would be true in September. Old and St Andrew's church had a system of ordering FT stock via a catalogue, and there were always FT products available on a small still at Montrose South and Ferryden church. It was suggested that Montrose Churches Together might be a channel to use to get information to church reps. All church reps receive a copy of our current stock list.

c) Businesses and Retailers: The supermarket Aldi had recently opened in Montrose, so would need a visit to check how much Fairtrade produce they were marketing. On their website they cited FT tea, coffee, bananas, wine and roses as being part of their stock. It was agreed that a member of the Forum would visit the store and speak to the Manager.

LO suggested that we might do a profile of Dennis Laidlaw to highlight FT in Montrose, possibly timing it to be pre-AGM publicity, or timed for another event, perhaps connected with the 10th Anniversary of the FT Action Campaign.

In connection with an event, Dennis suggested a possible coffee-tasting, which could be done in Madison's on a Monday afternoon, for example. He offered to do this.

d) Education: It was agreed that IS and PR should go to see the Head at the Academy to discuss the situation with Fair Trade there.

e) Flagship Employer: LO had had a meeting with the British Legion and they would be interested to be considered as a venue for the FTFAGM. LO reported that there would potentially be a grant available for the weather protection and banner that were necessary for the FT stall in the market and elsewhere. Scotmid grants of up to £500 per year were available to community groups. (Montrose FT Forum had already received £216 in wine and other products earlier in 2017.) She also reported that Madison's were

catering for Scotmid's OGM in Brechin on October 3rd.

f) Community Groups: No updates

g) Website: It was agreed that IS and PR would arrange a time to see David Alder to discuss possibilities with him, prior to his being invited to a Forum meeting.

f) Publicity: The proposed profile of DL would publicise FT, any event we were proposing and Montrose business at the same time.

5. Archivist's Report: PS reported simply that he had filed the June minutes and an extract from the Scotmid magazine, Jigsaw, which included the Montrose AGM and Wine-tasting poster

6. Treasurer's Report: Ian reported that there had been no change in the account. He reported that he had received a letter of thanks from Traidcraft Exchange for the Forum's donation of £180.

7. Any Other Business: There was no other business

8. Date of next meeting:

The next meeting of the Fair Trade Forum will take place on Thursday October 26th.
Time and place to be confirmed

