

# MONTROSE FAIRTRADE FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on **Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 9.30am at Madison's, Montrose High Street**

**Present:** Sylvia Breen, Jacqueline Mitchell, Nick Bradford, Edith Fraser, Pam Robinson

1. **Apologies:** received from Lynne Ogg
2. **Minutes of meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> were signed**
3. **Matters Arising:** will be dealt with as they come up in the agenda
4. **Updates:**

**Council :** SB said she was still getting to grips with all that was involved in her Fair Trade responsibility, especially for the Zone, which would be due for status renewal in January.

**Churches:** no updates. EF said she was in the process of finding out who the church FT rep was at Hillside, and possibly trying again to interest the Roman Catholic Church in supporting Fair Trade. Other churches had ongoing activities.

**Businesses and Retailers:** JM had already spoken to other retailers and left forms with them. One new supporter, Subway, has filled in a form and will receive a window sticker. (Post-meeting: PR has received scans of forms from Buth Tabhartas in the High Street and Costa Coffee on the trading estate opposite Lidl.) JM also talked about networking with other businesses about Fair Trade, and possibly arranging meetings with speakers about Fair Trade. It was agreed that SB would contact the SFTF about possible speakers for such meetings, and/or meetings of the zone groups to talk about Fair Trade.(see AOB)

**Education:** The committee noted the current involvement of primary schools with Fair Trade, covering much of their curriculum. Ordering and counting stock, serving people and counting money were practical spin-offs for Ferryden children, while others, such as Rosemount and Borrowfield, have specific courses and lessons about Fair Trade and different aspects of life. Unfortunately, no progress was reported on present FT involvement at the Academy, so it was suggested that PR should get in touch with the Rector of the Academy to arrange an appointment for the Autumn to talk about FT. It must be stated that renewal of town FT status becomes more difficult if our secondary school does not have any involvement with the aims and objectives of Fair Trade.

**Scotmid:** Continued to encourage the Forum to advertise Scotmid's desire to help groups with grants for FT projects.

1. **Community Groups:** It was suggested that Graeme Hodge would be the person on the council to contact for access to Community groups such as Scouts, Guides etc

**Publicity:** It was agreed that we should make more use of Twitter, and

perhaps organise a FTF Facebook page. JM, who uses the Montrose Matters FB page, said she would look into this.

2. PR showed the group a late prize that she had received from the Links Hotel , which should have been for the raffle at the AGM, which was a lunch for 2, but would expire 6 months after issue, which would be in August. It was suggested that PR should ask for an extension for the prize and that the words **for two people** should be omitted, so that it could be offered more widely as a family prize, for example, for a competition using FT retail stores during school holidays. This was left for ideas to be emailed to PR.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Nick was welcomed by the Forum . He presented his first statement to the Forum, saying that the statement balance on May 31<sup>st</sup> had been £607.55, although the free funds were £290.59. This was due to several as yet unrepresented cheques from April and May. PR said she would look into the SFTF cheque, and Willie Wilso's cheque for Traidcraft supplies, which had not yet been paid in.
4. **5.AOCB** Edith expressed a need for specific information about Fair Trade, so that we can explain to people how FT is different from other ethical branding on products, such as RTZ and Rainforest Alliance. It would help if we could know exactly why we were supporting FT and encouraging people to spend more on everyday products such as tea and coffee etc. Others had also voiced this apparently at the zone meeting, so SB agreed to put this to SFTF with the intention of organising a meeting for zone groups.
5. **Date of next meeting**

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Sweet Swan café, Ferryden Church Hall (TBC)**

