

MONTROSE FAIRTRADE FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday May 31st 2018 at 3.00pm at Madison's, Montrose High Street

Present: Ian Sykes, Edith Fraser, Pam Robinson

1. Apologies: received from Kelly Ann Dempsey, Lynne Ogg

2. Minutes of meeting on February 8th were signed

3. Updates

Council : no updates

Churches: no updates. Concern was expressed about a seeming lack of interest on the part of some church reps, seen in their reluctance to respond to requests for information about their activities. (Most churches in Montrose are Fairtrade Churches and are therefore committed to using FT tea, coffee and sugar, and publicising FT activities where possible)

Businesses: there is a new retailer in Murray Street who sells some Traidcraft items. It is our intention to visit retailers in the High Street and Murray Street with supporters' forms later this Summer.

Education: there have been good developments in Primary Schools, with P5 in Borrowfield School doing a course on FT and the Environment. PR was invited to speak to the children during this course. The monthly café continues at Ferryden School; Rosemount have Fair Achiever status. Action to encourage FT revival in the Academy is pending until after Summer break.

Scotmid: no updates

Community Groups: Links Park is still on the list for involvement, but it appears that they are bound into a contract for coffee with Nestle. Other things like tea and sugar could still be recommended to be Fairtrade, perhaps?

Website: It was suggested that there was perhaps no further need for a website, given that we now use Twitter. This is open for discussion with other members of the Forum.

Publicity: We agreed that increased publicity was needed for the activities of the FT Action Group, and there was a need to organise this and raise the profile of FT in Montrose, particularly at the Farmers' market.

Perhaps we should think of a display in the library or museum or going around the churches, making use of the Timeline poster that we have.

4. Treasurer's Report

IS reported that the finances stood at £372.42, which was at present in RBS, but would be transferred to the Clydesdale Bank by June 6th due to the closure of RBS.

5. AOCB

1) Members were reminded that the presentation that had been intended for the AGM had not yet been made, and we should look for ideas for this

2) Ian wanted to remind the Forum that it was his intention to retire at the AGM in 2019. We should also look at the size of the committee and its composition, needing a dynamic group to take Fair Trade forward in Montrose.

3) The 90kg rice challenge put out by JTS was discussed, with reference to the Primary schools particularly and we felt that we should send out information and invite schools to participate if they could get advance orders for rice from parents and friends. This could become a schools project in Montrose. Ideas are invited from other Forum members.

4) The Academy was also an issue at present, but we would need to talk to the Rector of the Academy in the hope that he would appoint someone to head up a new Fair Trade group.