



supported by Brent Council

Brent Fairtrade Network

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 25 June 2024

on zoom

Present: Emily Raymond (Chair) Cristina Porto (Treasurer) Ruth Kitching (Secretary)
Sue Noyce, John Cope, Robin Sharp, Cllr Janice Long, Nana Asante

1. The Chair welcomed everyone. The Agenda was agreed.
2. No apologies
3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved. No matters arising.
4. Treasurer's report: There had been no movement of funds during the year. Our balance is £291.97 (6.55 petty cash and £285.42 in the Metro account). The accounts had been checked by Ray Curran.
5. The Chair's report was welcomed
6. Election of Officers: all the current officers had agreed to stand and were therefore re-elected *nem con*. Emily – Chair, Cristina – Treasurer, Ruth – secretary.



Supported by Brent Council

Brent Fairtrade Network Steering Group Minutes of meeting 25 June 2024 on zoom – following AGM

Present: Emily Raymond (Chair) Cristina Porto (Treasurer) Ruth Kitching (Secretary)
Sue Noyce, John Cope, Robin Sharp, Cllr Janice Long.Nana Asante

1. See AGM minutes items 1-4 for introduction etc.
2. No matters arising from April meeting??
3. ACE Brent. Ruth agreed to re-invite Elaine Sheppard to a meeting to discuss.
4. Orleen Hilton is no longer Mayor of Brent but is likely to take up her interests, including FT, again, once recovered. The new Mayor and deputy are not thought to have a special interest in FT but we could still contact them if we needed a presence.
5. World Fairtrade Day at Civic Centre (7 May) was useful for the contacts we made. The deputy mayor attended and we met Nadia Khan and other members of the environment team as well as Millie Patel, deputy leader of the Council. For a future event, by the library (currently closed) would be a better location.
6. Barbican event (4 June) organised by the Foundation to celebrate its 30th anniversary.
Robin, Nana and Ruth attended with perhaps 100 others. Speakers included Mike Gidney (CEO of FTF), the CE of Sainsbury's and Silvia Herrera, a coffee farmer from Mexico. A well-researched accompanying report (also available online) was provided. Robin and Ruth spoke to Mike Gidney who offered to come (or send a deputy) to a public meeting if we organised one.

There followed a discussion about cocoa, most of which is produced in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire. There is a world shortage, and the governments of the two countries have made a pact to control the price. This led to the idea of organising a public meeting on the subject of cocoa/chocolate – with the emphasis on price and sustainability

Various possibilities were discussed:

format: in person, online or hybrid?

speakers: a cocoa farmer (if in person perhaps with the support of Divine Chocolate)

a trade rep from the Ghanaian embassy

Mike Gidney

where? St Martins? Robin's church in Harlesden? the Civic Centre?

when? Robin favoured the Autumn but others felt this was too soon. World Fairtrade Day on May 10th? or April? If before Easter we could warn about the price of Easter eggs.

Robin agreed to explore the possibilities and contact Mike Gidney

7. Improving our range of contacts

Sue suggested building up our network by linking with Climate groups, including the council team. We could also contact new MPs after the Election. Nana mentioned that Coop Community Pioneers had just been made redundant and could be a source of support.

8. Climate change event (organised by the Council's climate team) at the Kiln theatre – morning of Monday July 22nd This is aimed at schools and we have been invited to have a stall. Janice will go but may be the only one available. Perhaps we could join with FOE who have also been invited. Between now and 4 July (election day) very little is happening in the Council.

9. Queens Park Day 15 September 12-5.30.

Emily is away but will look for willing volunteers to put up the gazebo. Jon, Sue, Cristina, Robin and Ruth will be there. Ruth will ask Marjorie Hancock to bring Zaytoun products, and find out if any other local allies can help. Agreed to meet on zoom nearer to the day to organise a rota. Emily will send out a Doodle poll.

10. Any Other Business

Jon spoke about several events organised by Central London Oxfam group. he also offered to write to new MPs once elected.

11. Date of next meeting: (after queens Park day) to be decided by doodle poll