

Hampshire Fairtrade Network

Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting, held at Holy Cross Church Resource Centre, Eastleigh, on Saturday 27th June.

Present

Daphne Bright (chair), Pat Statham, Louise Bloom (Eastleigh); Rachel & Jeremy Hicks (Fareham); Charles & Sarah Hirom (Gosport); Christine McMillan, Barbara Edney (Portsmouth); Sue James (Portsmouth/Havant); David Lloyd, Rosemary Dunhill, Charlotte Bailey (Winchester); Sue Hunt (Shop Equality); Rachael Sweet (Fairtrade Foundation); Rebecca Kinge (Southampton).

Welcome and Introduction

Daphne Bright, chair of the Eastleigh Fairtrade group, and Louise Bloom, Eastleigh borough councillor and Fairtrade champion, welcomed attendees and reported on the recent success of Eastleigh in achieving Fairtrade status. Good contacts and networks have been built across the borough, and they are now looking towards developing social media links with the aid of a student volunteer.

Apologies for absence

Jill Gibson (Basingstoke); Les & Cathy Murrell (Rushmoor); Fay Bowden (Co-Operative Group), Chris Shiel (Bournemouth); Robert Pearce (Wimborne); Gemma Lacey, Bev Wyatt (Southern Co-Operative); Manal Ramadan (Zaytoun); Gill Hickman, Vikki Jordan (Ringwood); Becca Rowland (South-East Forum, National Campaigner Committee); Alison Neasom (Eastleigh); Patricia Hughes (Hart); Mary Morgan, Olivia Tottle (Petersfield); Helen Carter (Andover); Philip Hayler (Havant); Sue Ward (Portsmouth).

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were approved.

Matters arising

Sarah Hirom reported on the latest status of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). There has been some progress in that the negotiations have not proceeded smoothly, but we need to keep up the pressure as it is still in the balance.

Secretary's report

Rachel read her report, a copy of which is attached.

Treasurer's report

Charles presented the accounts, a copy of which is attached.

The question was raised of whether HFN or any of its groups has charitable status. None do in their own right, but Rachael confirmed that we can use the Fairtrade Foundation's charity number. (Though not their public liability insurance!)

Elections

Rachel stated her intention to stand down as secretary. Charles is willing to continue as treasurer for another year, but will step down after the 2016 AGM, and he was confirmed in office for the coming year.

No nominations were received for the posts of chair and secretary, so all groups are asked to consider who might take these posts on. Some notes exist on what these roles entail – these will be made available, though to a large extent the roles are what you make them.

Other business

The remainder of the gathering was given over to presentations on the following topics:

- Feedback from local groups and discussion on Goals 1 (links with local councils) and 3 (community links, including schools, community groups and businesses).
- Thoughts on the future of the Network, leading into discussion over an excellent lunch provided by the Eastleigh group.
- Fairtrade Foundation campaigns (presented by Rachael Sweet).
- Zaytoun olive oil, including film clips and a first-hand account of a trip to Palestine by Barbara Edney.
- Shop Equality (presented by Sue Hunt).