

## Sudbury Fairtrade Group

### Notes from a meeting on Monday 9 October 2022 at 2pm

As there was no suitable room available at the Town Hall, we met at 98 Melford Road, courtesy of Malcolm & Judith Offord.

1. **Present:** Malcolm Offord, Malcolm Snow, Peter Heard (Treasurer), Sara Merritt, Sue Kistruck.

Sara was welcomed to the meeting. She was a Traidcraft rep at a former church. She now lives in Little Cornard and worships at Little Cornard church, Stour Valley Vineyard Church and the Quakers.

**Apologies:** Elizabeth Lee, Sue Ayres (Chair and acting Secretary).

**Others on circulation list:** Annabelle Waldron, Dee (Daynore) Cameron, Jessie Carter, Loretta Shewring, Rachel Price, Tim Regester.

Annabelle was assistant manager at Sudbury Oxfam. She has been unwell for some time, and her Oxfam email address bounces. She had been a valuable member of the group.

Vi Goodhand is no longer able to attend regular meetings.

2. **Secretary:** Malcolm S offered to take notes for this meeting only. Sara volunteered for the next meeting.
3. **Treasurer's business:** The building society is proving to be unhelpful. There are ongoing problems with changing signatures on the account. *Since the meeting, the passbook has been returned to the Treasurer. The balance in the account is £189.40.*
4. **Correspondence:** A Fairtrade Communities Bulletin has been received from the national headquarters. We recommend all group members should be on the circulation list. To request this, contact [communities@fairtrade.org.uk](mailto:communities@fairtrade.org.uk).
5. **Approval of minutes of previous meeting** (25 July 2022):  
The minutes were not available, but these points were noted:

Sue Ayres would see the Town Clerk about Fairtrade, and would try to get into schools to highlight Fairtrade. Elizabeth offered to help with the latter. A competition was suggested for children to create a Fairtrade poster.

An entry in the Christmas Tree Festival was suggested. Sue K and Sara have now offered to organise this.

Andrew Phillips had suggested possible involvement with the Muslim community. Today Sara mentioned possible links via the Quakers, where the Muslims meet weekly.

Sue Ayres had mentioned a possible Wednesday evening session at Sudbury Library.

Andrew Phillips, via a charity, could contribute £50 towards the cost of printing a revised leaflet and directory.

6. **Ensure the town continues to fulfill the commitments of a Fairtrade Town, and prepare for renewal:**

Sudbury's renewal date had been delayed due to the pandemic and set at 30/09/2022. We have

now heard that it is further postponed to Spring 2023.

This will be Sudbury's ten-year anniversary as a Fairtrade Town. April 3rd, 2013, was the actual date.

The Five Goals for a Fairtrade Town were discussed, but there might be new criteria soon.

1. **LOCAL COUNCIL PASSES A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FAIRTRADE, AND AGREES TO SERVE FAIRTRADE PRODUCTS (FOR EXAMPLE, IN MEETINGS, OFFICES AND CANTEENS).** Sue Ayres to be asked to talk to the Town Clerk, other officers, and councillors about this.
2. **AT LEAST FOUR FAIRTRADE PRODUCT RANGES ARE READILY AVAILABLE IN THE AREA'S RETAIL OUTLETS (SHOPS, SUPERMARKETS, NEWSAGENTS, PETROL STATIONS) AND TWO PRODUCTS SERVED IN LOCAL CATERING OUTLETS (CAFÉS, RESTAURANTS, PUBS).** Sara offered to help with this, based on the existing directory, but first Sue Ayres to check with Rachel Price if any progress has been made.
3. **LOCAL WORKPLACES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS (PLACES OF WORSHIP, SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS) SUPPORT FAIRTRADE AND USE FAIRTRADE PRODUCTS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.** Malcolm O offered to contact churches, and Sue Ayres to be asked to contact schools.
4. **MEDIA COVERAGE AND EVENTS RAISE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF FAIRTRADE ACROSS THE COMMUNITY.**
5. **A LOCAL FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP IS CONVENED TO ENSURE THE FAIRTRADE TOWN CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO DEVELOP AND GAIN NEW SUPPORT.** Our group fulfills this role but needs strengthening.
7. **Promote Fairtrade to businesses, shops, organisations, schools, churches:** This was covered under item 6.
8. **Fairtrade Fortnight Monday 27 February to Sunday 12 March 2023:** A coffee morning at the Quakers was suggested.
9. **Update the Directory:** This was covered under item 6.
10. **The website, the Facebook page, and the Twitter feed:**  
Malcolm S updates the website, but there has been little recent news.  
Sara said the link to the Facebook page was broken, and questioned the need for it. We do not have a Twitter feed, and doubt its value.
11. **Liaison with the national HQ and the Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns (Richard Stainer):** Sue Ayres is the link for both.
12. **Recruit more members for this group:** We are all asked to act on this. Concern for Fairtrade is not confined to churchgoers.  
Links with Transition Bures and Transition Sudbury could be valuable. Sara will make contact.
13. **Any other business:**  
Perhaps Kettle & Fish could make room for a Fairtrade table.  
  
There is a Fairtrade stall at the monthly market on Bures village green, and at St Mary's church.  
  
Malcolm O will contact Tony Platt, who was mayor when the charter was first granted in 2013, to investigate how he could help us.
14. **Date and place of next meeting:** Monday 21 November 2022, at 2pm at 98 Melford Road. (Since the meeting, Sue Ayres has confirmed that she is available.)

The meeting closed at 3.45pm. Malcolm O was thanked for his hospitality.