

**Sudbury Fairtrade Group**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday February 6th 2023 at 3pm**  
**98 Melford Road**

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b>  <b>Present:</b> Malcolm Offord, Malcolm Snow, Sara Merritt, Peter Heard, Andrew Phillips  <b>Apologies:</b> Elizabeth Lee</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Treasurer's business</b>  Nothing to report</p>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Correspondence</b>  None</p>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Minutes of previous meeting on 21 November</b>  The minutes of 21 November had been circulated by email and available on the website and the CTiS newsletter.</p>	
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Matters arising (not covered below) and reporting back</b>  6a. Elizabeth Lee had been in contact to say she is keen to help but has some health issues at present. She is the community worker at St John's.  6b, c. Sue Ayres had not reported back about her conversations about fairtrade with the muslim community or about organising a speaker for the library. Sara to call Sue and see if she is OK.  6e. Extending the St John's Traidcraft stall to Kettle and Fish will be on hold for the moment – see any other business re Traidcraft.  6f. Networking – see any other business re Fairtraders.  6g. Malcolm O has tried to engage the support of Tony Platt, who was mayor when Sudbury became a Fairtrade town, but has had no response so far. He was encouraged to persevere.</p>	<p><b>Sara</b></p> <p><b>Malc O</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Fairtrade town commitments</b>  Previously as below -</p>	
	<p><b>1. Local council passes a resolution</b> supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings, offices and canteens).  <i>Sue Ayres had not reported back on her conversation with the Town Clerk, other officers and councillors about passing a resolution to support fairtrade. Sara to discuss with Sue.</i></p> <p><b>2. At least four Fairtrade product ranges</b> 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).  <i>Sara had spoken to Rachel Price at the Town Hall, and will continue to liaise with her about this.</i></p> <p><b>3. Local workplaces and community organisations</b> (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible.  <i>Sara and Andrew had spoken to the Quakers about using Fairtrade products and they had agreed.</i></p>	<p><b>Sara/Sue</b></p> <p><b>Sara/Sue</b></p>

	<p><i>Sue had not reported back on her meetings with schools. Sara to discuss with Sue.</i></p> <p><b>4. Media coverage and events</b> raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.</p> <p><i>Sara had not yet written article for Sudbury and Long Melford news, but would try to do so for next weekend so that it could be distributed also in the St Gregory newsletter and the CTiS news, and on the website.</i></p> <p><b>5. A local Fairtrade steering group</b> is convened to ensure the Fairtrade Town campaign continues to develop and gain new support.</p>	<p><b>Sara/Sue</b></p> <p><b>Sara/Malc S</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Fairtrade Fortnight</b> February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 11<sup>th</sup> 2023</p> <p>Rachel Price had suggested we have a market stall at the Green Sundays in Sudbury, but this would be difficult to run as most of our supporters will want to be at church.</p> <p>However, a market stall for Fairtrade Fortnight would seem feasible. The committee as it stands could manage a stall giving out publicity (and bananas?) and if we get more support from those on our distribution list/CTiS/local fairtraders we might be able to have some produce for sale. Sara would book the stall via Rachel Price, aiming for Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> 10-2pm.</p> <p>We would need to get publicity materials. Sue Ayres may have a box of these – Sara to discuss.</p> <p>All present agreed they would be willing to be on the stall for an hour or two.</p>	<p><b>Sara</b></p> <p><b>Sara</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Publicity:</b> The website, the Facebook page, and the Twitter feed</p> <p>We reviewed the website which was excellent. Malcolm Snow updates it with these minutes and will add details of our market stall (when confirmed) and Sara’s article.</p>	<p><b>Malc S</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Liaison with the national HQ and the Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns</b></p> <p>We agreed it might be helpful to change our key contact, as we have not heard from them through Sue. Sara to discuss with Sue and SAFTA (Suffolk Fairtrade towns association. Richard Stainer and Alan Muchal were our contacts.)</p>	<p><b>Sara/Sue</b></p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Recruit more members for this group</b></p> <p>See below re networking with fairtraders.</p>	
<b>11</b>	<p>Any other business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traidcraft plc has gone into receivership, which is very sad and a great blow for the fairtrade cause. All is not lost, but it is now much more difficult to source fair trade supplies. Sara is in a group of ex Traidcraft reps (“Fairtraders”) that is trying to compile a list of alternative sources. Malcolm Snow will circulate a list when it appears.</li> <li>We discussed ways to help local fairtraders – ie. those who have been selling Traidcraft in the area - to network, which might enable them to continue to buy stock. This seems like something we could helpfully coordinate. Malcolm Snow to invite fairtraders to be in touch via CTiS. Sara is already in touch with the Bures group.</li> <li>“What is Fairtrade?” – Andrew led a discussion of the point of what we are doing. We discussed the abusive and amoral system which is free trade and laissez fair capitalism, and how Fairtrade might begin to challenge that, although this is a limited route and there will be other ways to do this. Sara to spell this out in her article.</li> </ol>	

	<p>d) We discussed the Fairtrade mark, the registered certification label for products sourced from producers in lower income countries, and its importance in identifying bonafide fairtrade products, especially in supermarkets.</p> <p>e) We agreed that we were still happy for CTiS to include an open invitation to this meeting, and for the minutes to be on the website.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 3pm</b>	