

**Sudbury Fairtrade Group
Minutes
Monday 24th April 2023 at 3pm
98 Melford Road**

1	<p>Welcome and apologies Present: Malcolm Offord, Malcolm Snow, Sara Merritt, Peter Heard, Apologies: We had hoped Sue Ayres would be with us and we called her to remind her, but had no answer. She is about to retire from the Council so may have more time, or may be concentrating on other projects. It was resolved that we would carry forward the items with her name on one more time, and that Sara would write to her to ask if she wishes to continue to be part of the group, either as Chair or as member.</p> <p>We spent a few minutes remembering our dear friend Andrew Phillips who has died. We remembered in particular his commitment to fairtrade as one way of furthering a more just society.</p>	Sara
2	<p>Treasurer's business Churches Together in Sudbury had offered to contribute to the cost of registering the SudburyFairTrade.org.uk domain name for another 5 years at a cost of about £48. We agreed to accept this kind offer. Meanwhile we continue to finance from our petty cash the annual cost of the website hosting which is £24. This is organised by Stephen Mudd from Suffolk Road church as he bundles together 4 different websites including ours.</p>	
3	<p>Correspondence Sara had received several emails which were reported under matters arising.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of previous meeting on 21 November The minutes of 6th February had been circulated by email and were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising (not covered below) and reporting back Outreach. We await Sue Ayres' reports of her conversations about fairtrade with the muslim community, organising a speaker for the library, and reaching into schools. See above.</p> <p>Fairtrader networking. Sara had two positive responses from the message in CTiS news calling for fairtraders to get together, from St Gregory's and St John's churches. They were positive but not active presently. It was noted that a successor to Traidcraft, called We Are Fair Trade, may be about to emerge, and this will reinvigorate the fairtrader network. We will continue to monitor this situation. Sara will contact the fairtraders who run the stall at St John's.</p> <p>Tony Platt. MO will meet Mr Platt, the former mayor who was supportive of Fairtrade, at a Rotary dinner this evening, and will attempt to engage his enthusiasm and support for the cause.</p>	Sue Sara Malc O
6	<p>Fairtrade town commitments Previously as below -</p>	
	<p>1. Local council passes a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and agrees to serve Fairtrade products (for example, in meetings, offices and canteens). <i>We agreed to approach Councillor Tim Register with regard to this as he had been supportive at the FairTrade Fortnight stall.</i></p> <p>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).</p>	Sara Sara

	<p><i>Sara will coordinate this when we have at least one other active member on the group. Rachel Price will be contacted again to see if she could assist further, but she seems to be busy.</i></p> <p>3. Local workplaces and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) support Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible.</p> <p><i>Sara had given a talk at CTiS and encouraged churches to move to Fairtrade. She would write another brief note to go on the CTiS newsletter with more encouragement, including inviting every church to have a talk about Fairtrade at least annually (as was once stipulated in the “fairtrade church” criteria, and seems a good idea).</i></p> <p><i>The Quakers and St Gregory’s have been seen to change to Fairtrade coffee and tea!</i></p> <p><i>We agreed to contact the Sudbury Chamber of Commerce and try to organise a speaker at one of their meetings.</i></p> <p><i>We also agreed to look through the Council’s directory of local community organisations and send an email as appropriate.</i></p> <p><i>MO would look out for any active local businessmen at the Rotary dinner and attempt to engage them with fairtrade.</i></p> <p>4. Media coverage and events raise awareness and understanding of Fairtrade across the community.</p> <p><i>See Fairtrade Fortnight, below.</i></p> <p>5. A local Fairtrade steering group is convened to ensure the Fairtrade Town campaign continues to develop and gain new support.</p>	<p>Sara Sara MO</p>
7	<p>Fairtrade Fortnight February 27th to March 11th 2023</p> <p>Sara had written an article which was published in the Sudbury and Long Melford Community News, and also on the CTiS website and our own website.</p> <p>We also ran a successful market stall on 11th March and were pleased to give out over 100 bananas which had been donated by the Coop. It was a good morning and we had a great deal of positive responses from people, many of whom said that they knew about fairtrade and looked for it in the shops. Most of the children had heard about fairtrade at school. We felt welcomed and encouraged, and that future initiatives will be supported. It was also very encouraging to have the support of Sophie and Else from Oxfam, and Mary the Coop community pioneer.</p> <p>St John’s Methodist church ran a Fairtrade coffee morning on the same day, and it was well attended. MS reported that the stall looked very good and it seemed to be thriving. He thinks they run the stall every other Sunday.</p>	
8	<p>Publicity: The website, the Facebook page, and the Twitter feed All well</p>	
9	<p>Liaison with the national HQ and the Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns</p> <p>Sara and MS have been in contact with the Fairtrade Foundation and SAFT. They are both now receiving email updates from SAFT and Rev Richard Stainer, who is the chair and lives in Bury, has offered us support. Would he be able to provide a speaker for the Chamber of Commerce?</p> <p>The Fairtrade Foundation had confirmed that a new system will be unveiled “in the Spring” therefore we will aim to meet again in a month or when this appears. They have also confirmed that our renewal date is 7 August 2023.</p> <p>Sara to confirm that she is now the key contact for the Fairtrade Foundation</p>	<p>Sara/MS Sara Sara</p>
10	<p>Recruit more members for this group</p>	

	<p>It was agreed that we need at least one or two new members in order to get some of the things done which are on our list, ready for renewal.</p> <p>Sara agreed to follow up the contact with Sophie and Else from Oxfam and Mary from the Coop – would they be able to join our group if we met at a different time? Are they able to give time to fairtrade personally or is it just part of their work?</p>	Sara
11	<p>Any other business</p> <p>a) It was suggested that Malcolm approach Matthew Warnock, local Christian businessman and the owner of local tailor's shop Peddars, as he may well be supportive of fairtrade and may have some ideas for networking in the town.</p>	Malcolm Snow
12	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 13th June 3pm, 98 Melford Road – IF the fairtrade foundation has issued new criteria.</p>	