

Minutes of a Fairtrade Steering Group meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2026 at St John's Methodist Church

Present: Cllr Nigel Bennett, Rev Ruth Ridge, Rev Andy Jowitt, Rev Sally Morris, Sarah Leedham, Simon Willis, Christine Willis, Alison Peace, Michelle Mandry, Elizabeth Lee, Gill Phillips

Ruth opened the meeting by reading Proverbs 31: 8-9

1	<p>Apologies Apologies were received from Mary Thompson</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2026 were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
3	<p>Moving Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Local Council Support. Nigel said that Adrian Stohr was now the Mayor and that now would be a good time to approach him about holding a fairtrade tea in the Mayor's parlour. Saturday would be a good day as it was market day and the TIC and museum would be open. The best dates for us would be Saturday 26th September or Saturday 3rd October. The Mayor's parlour would not be available if it had been booked for weddings. Ruth would email info@sudburytowncouncil.co.uk copying Adrian in. It was noted that the planned market stall needed to be booked online. Nigel reminded the meeting that a Town Council gazebo could be booked for £10.00 and it would be set up and taken down by Council staff. It was agreed that the stall should provide information along the lines of the Sudbury on Show stall. The list of suppliers could be available; there could be some tasters etc. We could also provide more information on other marks such as Rainforest Alliance and BCorp. Sarah said that Andrew Doarks had a friend in Uganda who is trying to get Barista in North Street to use his coffee. Ruth said she would speak to Andrew to get some more information about this project. It was pointed out that although it had originally been suggested that the stall should be booked on the same day as the tea party, realistically we would be stretched to find volunteers for both events. Ruth said that public liability insurance would be needed. She said she would check to see whether it could be covered by the CTIS&D insurance</p> <p>List of local suppliers of Fairtrade products. The updated list had been circulated with the previous minutes.</p> 	<p>Ruth to email Town Council to see if Mayor could host a tea party during Fairtrade fortnight</p> <p>Ruth to continue to book a stall when reply in respect of tea party had been received</p> <p>Ruth to speak to Andrew Doarks to get more information about the Ugandan coffee project</p> <p>Ruth to check whether CTIS&D insurance would cover a Fairtrade market stall</p>

	<p>expressed that the main aim of the email was to gain financial support but it was noted that there was some guidance on how to support the campaign. Nigel suggested that we should find out whether the legislation they were seeking had been in the government's manifesto. Ruth said she would try and find out more but the meeting agreed that in principle they would support the aims of the campaign and that we should sign up to indicate our support.</p>	<p>Ruth to look further into Transform Trade's campaign</p>
7	<p>Date of next meeting The next meeting would be held on Thursday July 16th at 7.30 at St John's.</p>	