

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A FAIRTRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 31 JANUARY 2022 AT 6PM

PRESENT: Councillor Johnson (chairperson) together with Councillors Aviet, S Hodges and A Greenfield and G Lancaster.

ALSO PRESENT: Beth Hillier – Sustainable Projects Officer
Rebecca Blackwell – Office Team Leader
Jane Hutt MS – Minister for Social Justice
Jon Townley – Head of Wales Africa
Councillor Clarke – Observer
Councillor N Hodges – Observer

132. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Hawkins and Richardson, along with R Bennett.

133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

134. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

RESOLVED: That the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 be received and noted.

135. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE 2021/22 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Chair asked for nominations for a Vice-Chair however no nominations were received, therefore the Chair advised that it would be best to wait for the new Administration to elect a Vice-Chairperson as Fairtrade would not be meeting again until that time.

RESOLVED: That the Election of Vice-Chairperson be deferred until the next meeting of the Fairtrade Advisory Committee which will be in the new Administration following the Local elections in May 2022.

136. TO APPROVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FAIRTRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2021

The Chair advised members that himself and Councillor N Hodges attended the Santa Fun Run dressed as bananas to hand out Fairtrade bananas at the finish line which was well received.

He also wished to note that minute no. 130(2) should read Jane Hutt MS.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Fairtrade Advisory Committee held on 1 November 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record, subject to the amendment above.

137. JANE HUTT MS, MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, FAIRTRADE WALES UPDATE

The Chair introduced Jane Hutt MS and thanked her for attending. The Minister congratulated the Fairtrade Advisory Committee for being an outstanding lead in Fairtrade for the Vale of Glamorgan and Wales as a whole, saying that whenever the Committee has had an opportunity to do something they have always delivered. The Minister added that there had been interesting developments within the Vale of Glamorgan in terms of Fairtrade.

The Minister advised members that there was a strong presence at the recent COP26 where Jenipher Sambazi spoke about Fairtrade and how climate change is effecting coffee growing in Uganda.

The Chair advised members that the Sustainable Barry Project Officer had emailed all members requesting questions to ask the minister which had also been sent to the minister prior to the meeting. The questions were outlined in the report.

- 1. How is Welsh Government supporting Jeniphers Coffi? Jenipher visited Barry before lockdown and spoke at COP26 about the impact of climate change on Coffee growers in Uganda. Is there a way to encourage coffee house businesses in Barry to work with Jenipher's Coffi?*

The Minister advised that the Welsh Government have been supporting Jeniphers Coffi since 2019 with the coffee being sold in Fair Do's in Cardiff. The coffee is hand roasted at Ferraris, Bridgend which produces top quality, organic, Fairtrade coffee which has been grown at a co-operative in Uganda, Africa. The Minister advised that the coffee is targeted for home use with a handful of Welsh stockist but advised that more could be done to promote the availability of the coffee and stockists. The Minister suggested that the Soroptimists could hold a coffee morning in conjunction with Barry Town Council and serve Jeniphers Coffi. The Minister also advised that Jenipher talked at COP26 about planting of trees to protect against future landslides and asked Jon Townley to share the video after the meeting of Jeniphers speech at COP26. The Minister added that Jenipher will approach the Welsh Government to request funding in order to become more sustainable, planning on installing solar panel and utilising wind power ships to transport her coffee.

- 2. Considering the impact that Covid and Covid restrictions have had on campaigning efforts for a number of initiatives, including Fairtrade, what more can we as a Council do to promote the Fairtrade initiative?*

The Minister advised that restrictions had a negative effect in terms of promoting Fairtrade. However, with restrictions lifting the Minister voiced hope for reinvigorating its promotion. The Minister also mentioned the

importance of ethical, Fairtrade procurement in organisations and suggested working alongside businesses to promote Fairtrade Stockists to other independent businesses. She added that Jenipher's Coffi was predominantly used domestically and that more businesses purchasing Fairtrade coffee would have a huge beneficial impact on the communities supported by Fairtrade.

3. *Impact of Covid upon Welsh Government activities in Africa, and Welsh Governments position on vaccine support/waiver/economic development etc.*

The Minister advised about the Wales in Africa partnership, noting that it was difficult in terms of supporting African communities through the Pandemic as the Welsh Government did not have the power to send surplus vaccines. The Minister added that the First Minister had written a letter to the Prime Minister requesting the support of Peoples Vaccines donating surplus vaccines to those in the developing world which was strongly debated in the Senedd, adding that the letter also provided details regarding the Welsh Government's investment in COVID-19 response programmes and adaptation projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, advising that the support of these projects provided vital oxygen supplies in hospitals, training nurses in using oxygen and new ventilation technology, helping children get back to school by providing clean water and soap stations (it was noted that school closures impacted female students more), and also providing essential PPE. The Minister also advised that the letter requested a temporary waiver under the TRIPS agreement to relax the Intellectual Property Rights to enable patented vaccines to be made available to these low-income countries.

4. *What levers are available for Welsh Government Procurement policy, inside and outside Wales, to support Fairtrade?*

The Minister advised of the Sustainable Procurement Policy that she would share after the meeting.

5. *What has been the impact of Wales being a Fairtrade nation for nearly fifteen years? Is this making a tangible difference to those communities? How can we have more of an impact on the ground and/or engage more people in Wales about Fairtrade Nation/Nation of Sanctuary etc.?*

The Minister explained that a recent poll had shown that there was a much greater awareness of Fairtrade in Wales now and attributed this to the work done with schools. Furthermore, there was a greater emphasis on ethical procurement of goods and food sources generally, even domestically and these behaviours are even embedded in Welsh Government Policy (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales)). Jon Townley added that the development of cooperatives had aided in creating more prosperous communities in Africa, reporting that the rural communities around Mount Elgon, had schools, health centres, better sanitation, toilets and this was due to the Fairtrade Cooperative, whereas none of these facilities would be

possible without Fairtrade support. Mr Townley called for further support of Fairtrade producers to increase demand for their products and aid with their continued development.

Jane Hutt MS also updated members on Welsh Government's aspiration to become the world's first 'Nation of Sanctuary', highlighting the successful integration of Syrian and Afghanistani refugees in Cardiff and the Vale and how ethical procurement, supporting Fairtrade and supporting local businesses are all linked into that vision of fairer Wales. The Minister mentioned Cities of Sanctuary and encouraged Barry Town Council to consider becoming a Town of Sanctuary as well. She commended Barry Town Council's continued support of Fairtrade, noting that Barry was a flagship Fairtrade Town and that Barry Town Council continued to be forward-thinking and innovative.

The Chair thanked the Minister for her attendance at the meeting

RESOLVED that the information provided by the Minister for Social Justice, Jane Hutt MS be received and noted.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. To a meeting of Full Council being held on Monday 7 February 2022, that the letter sent by the First Minister to the Prime Minister in relation to offering surplus vaccines to developing world populations be received, requesting that a statement of support be issued.**
- 2. That Barry Town Council explores the possibility of becoming a Town of Sanctuary further and that Barry Town Council hosts a hybrid meeting inviting the Vale of Glamorgan Council to consider what can be done in terms of becoming a Town of Sanctuary.**

138. FAIRTRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

The Chair deferred the item until the next meeting of the Fairtrade Advisory Committee due to time constraints as Finance, Policy and General Purposes Committee was due to start at 7pm.

RESOLVED: That the Fairtrade Advisory Committee Action Plan be deferred to the next Fairtrade Advisory Committee for consideration.

139. FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2022

Members were provided with a report outlining the potential events that could be held in and around Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 to encourage and promote Fairtrade in the town.

Events included:

- Fairtrade Football Match with Barry Town United Football Club – the Chair discussed handing out bananas and Bala footballs
- Mayoral Coffee Morning - to be held at CACC where local businesses could showcase their Fairtrade products and members and residents could attend for tastings. Including a tasting of Jenipher's Coffi was also considered.
- Fairtrade Fortnight Quiz Night – Councillor N Hodges offered to be Quiz Master. Councillors discussed including Fairtrade tasting sessions for Wines and Chocolate.
- International Women's Day Coffee Morning 8 March 2022
- Fairtrade Pancake Day – offering Fairtrade ingredients for Shrove Tuesday Pancakes on 1 March 2022
- Social Media Takeover
- Collaborating with Llantwit Major and Penarth Town Councils in promoting each other's activities
- A Vale Fairtrade Art Competition

Members were in agreement with all proposed events for Fairtrade Fortnight 2022.

Amy Greenfield asked about the Councils procurement for Fairtrade items for Fairtrade Fortnight 2022. The Sustainable Barry Project Officer couldn't answer at the time but advised that she would look into and advise. The Chair suggested that procurement is discussed at a future meeting of the Fairtrade Advisory Group.

Amy Greenfield advised members that Awesome Wales are able to get preferential rates for Fairtrade Products bought in bulk which would be beneficial for both the shop and the Council for stocking events during Fairtrade 2022. Amy Greenfield added that there were not enough independent retailers offering Fairtrade products and that local stockists may not be able to sustain small orders much longer which could cut off the supply of Fairtrade products to Awesome Wales and other retailers in the Vale. She emphasised the need for more independent retailers to stock Fairtrade goods.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the Sustainable Barry Project Officer organises a quiz night to be held at the Cemetery Approach Community Centre**
- 2. That physical art entries for the Vale of Glamorgan Fairtrade Art Competition be received at Barry Town Council's Address**
- 3. That the winner of the Vale of Glamorgan Fairtrade Art Competition 2022 is displayed physically**

4. That members agreed the list of events proposed in the report
5. That the Chair of the Fairtrade Advisory Group discusses the finer details of the Fairtrade Fortnight events 2022 and circulates to all members.

140. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED: that the date of the Fairtrade Advisory Committee will be agreed at the Annual Meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday 17 May 2022.

The meeting closed at 6.58 pm.

Signed (Chairperson) Dated