

JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP AFFILIATED TO CHURCHES TOGETHER IN TRING

Minutes of our 60th Meeting in High Street Baptist Church, High Street, Tring on Wednesday 28th October 2009

Present: Will Berdinner (Tring Town Council), Shirley Bosley (SM), Nicky Bull (HSBC), Frank and Barbara Clark (SM), Michael Demidecki (CC), Janet Graves (CC), Sheila McGrath (CC), Mary Miles (CC), Anne Nobbs (SPSP), Philip Scribbins (SM), and Margaret Wilson (SPSP).

Nicky (chair) opened the meeting by a reading from the Book of Micah, chapter 6 followed by a prayer.

1. Apologies: Diana Bambridge (CC), Canon Berry (CC), Caroline Burmaster (CC), Margaret Donnelly (CC), Janet Goodyer (SPSP), Moira Hargreaves (SPSP), Anne Nobbs (SPSP), and Paul Wright (CC).
2. Consideration of Minutes of 59th Meeting (on 30th September 2009): Recorded apologies of Diana Bambridge, Will Berdinner and Margaret Wilson were to be added to the Minutes subject to which these were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.
3. Matters arising: There were none that could not be dealt with below.
4. Fairtrade report:
 - (1) Fairtrade stalls at Tring Farmers' Market on 17th October and 19th December (Christmas Farmers' Market from 9am to 2pm): Moira had advised that £154 was taken in sales on 17th October and has sent an e-mail thanking all who helped and saying that she would not have been able to manage the stall without their help. We are booked to help Moira again at the Christmas Farmers' Market on 19th December from 9am to 2pm. Two schools will be carol singing at the market and there will be a hog roast etc. The following volunteered to help with this stall: Margaret Wilson (including helping with setting up and clearing away), Mary Miles, Shirley Bosley (early session), Frank Clark and Sheila McGrath. Nicky advised that Moira will be running a Traidcraft stall at HSBC hall from 6.30pm to 9.30pm during the Tring Victorian Evening on 27th November.
 - (2) Working towards Fairtrade Borough status for Dacorum: We have been invited to send a representative to a meeting of the Dacorum Fairtrade Steering Group in Hemel Hempstead on 12th November at 2pm to discuss working towards Fairtrade Status for the Borough of Dacorum, this following the recent award of Fairtrade Town status to Hemel Hempstead. Nicky said she will probably be able to attend and it was agreed that Michael would send her details of the meeting.

(3) Will reported that the subject of a Fairtrade sign being placed at the entry to Tring was raised at the last meeting of Tring Town Council and no objection had been made though there has not yet been a full discussion. Hertfordshire Highways have first to give their approval and they have not yet responded to Will's communication. It was considered, provided they did give their approval, that a sign might also say that Tring is a Transition Town and also a Neighbourhood Watch Area.

(4) It was thought that the Co-op and Tesco's in Tring are not stocking as many FT products as before, perhaps due to the economic climate.

5. Human Rights: Philip handed round copies of the Autumn 2009 issue of *Liberty* the magazine published by Liberty, the National Council for Civil Liberties. He drew attention to the printed transcript of the address of Lord Bingham of Cornhill at Liberty's 75th Anniversary Conference and asked that we all read and reflect upon it so there can be discussion at our next meeting.
6. Assisted suicide: recent developments, and public consultation on the DPP's interim policy for prosecutors on assisted suicide. Michael said that before the meeting he had carried out a search on the internet and could find only one detailed recommendation as to how to respond to the public consultation on the DPP's guidelines. This had been given by the Catholic Bishops' conference of England and Wales. The Bishops' Conference say "**It is essential that as many people as possible concerned about safeguarding the value of life should respond. The guidelines are defective. If left unchanged, they are likely to encourage attitudes and practices that will greatly increase the pressures on vulnerable people to kill themselves.** Suicide is a terrible act and typically the act of a desperate person. Those contemplating suicide should be treated with compassion, but suicide should never be promoted or assisted. Promoting or assisting suicide is a serious offence, not a 'victimless crime'. It leaves someone dead." Advice on how to respond can be found on the Bishops' Conference website at www.catholicchurch.org.uk. The Bishop of Exeter has released a statement saying: "The Church of England has consistently argued – and Parliament has consistently voted – against any change in the law governing assisted suicide, even when this is motivated by compassion... The Church of England is therefore reserving its position on the detail of the draft guidance at this stage. Its formal submission will be made public in due course." Care Not Killing say they "will be examining the guidelines carefully in the coming weeks and responding formally to the DPP with our views." In view of the fact that not much guidance is yet available from organisations it was decided that our Group would leave preparation of its own submissions until our next meeting.
7. Palliative Care Meeting on 13th November in HSBC Hall: A most attractive poster has been designed by Sheila Lewington (CC) with text composed by Sheila McGrath. Copies of the poster were distributed for putting up in and around Tring. There will be two speakers, namely Sue Jarvie, Locality Nurse Manager of the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home and Dr. Kathy Myers, Consultant in Palliative Medicine at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn

Garden City and practising also at the Lister Hospital, Stevenage. The meeting will be advertised to start at 7.30pm and the plan is for Sue Jarvie to speak first, followed by Dr. Myers and for questions then to be taken from the floor.

8. Equality Bill: There was no report as to progress of this Bill.
9. Tring Guide to Local Produce: A further 1000 copies of this popular guide have been printed (October 2009 edition). They were ready in time for the Eco Fair on 10th October where, Nicky reported, they were well received. They were also available at other events during Tring's Own Apple Fayre (October/ November 2009).
10. Tring's Own Apple Fayre: More than 600 people attended Tring in Transition's Eco Fair (compared with around 400 last year). On 25th October there had been an Apple theme at the 10.30am Mass at CC, and afterwards Fairtrade refreshments and local apple juice had been served by our Group in the CC hall. Patrick Holden Director of the Soil Association is due to speak on 2nd November at 7.30pm at HSBC.
11. Any other matters. Sheila McGrath asked if members present could make a donation to Michael for expenses he had incurred in photocopying the poster advertising the Palliative Care meeting. A collection was taken and the proceeds duly passed to a grateful Michael.
12. Dates of Future Meetings: 25th November in St. Peter & St. Paul's Church Hall, 27th January 2010 in Corpus Christi Church hall and 24th February 2010 in St. Martha's Church.

Nicky concluded the meeting with a prayer.