**Fairtrade All-Party Parliamentary Group**

**Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday 30 November 2016**

**1-2pm, Committee Room 17**

**Present**

Jason McCartney MP

Holly Lynch MP

Cat Smith MP

Chris Elmore MP

Rob Marris MP

Stuart McDonald MP

Paula Sherriff MP

Carolyn Harris MP

Justin Madders MP

Gill Furness MP

Nigel Evans MP (represented by 2 parliamentary staff)

Three Fairtrade Foundation staff (secretariat, non-voting)

Six Fairtrade campaigners (observers, non-voting)

**Apologies**

Alex Salmond MP, Alison Thewliss MP, Andrew Bridgen MP, Andrew Mitchell MP, Angela Rayner MP, Angela Smith MP, Carol Monaghan MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Catherine McKinnell MP, Catherine West MP, Chris Stephens MP, Dave Anderson MP, David Warburton MP, Debbie Abrahams MP, Deirdre Brock MP, Dr Daniel Poulter MP, Dr Peter Bottomley MP,

Drew Hendry MP, Eleanor Laing MP, Emma Lewell-Buck MP, Emma Reynolds MP, Frank Field MP, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Graham Brady MP, Helen Goodman MP, Priti Patel MP, Jack Lopresti MP, Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Joan Ryan MP, Jon Nicolson MP, Judith Cummins MP, Kerry McCarthy MP, Kevin Hollinrake MP, Kirsty Blackman MP, Liam Fox MP, Lisa Cameron MP, Maria Caulfield MP, Maria Miller MP, Mark Durkan MP, Mark Prisk MP, Neil Coyle MP,

Pauline Latham MP, Peter Dowd MP, Richard Benyon MP, Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, Steve Brine MP, Tom Tugendhat MP, Victoria Prentis MP, Virendra Sharma MP.

**1. Opening comments from co-chairs**

Holly Lynch MP opened with remarks that the event following the AGM is an opportunity to bring campaigners and MPs together, and thanked Fairtrade Foundation for providing the Secretariat and organising the event in Westminster during Fairtrade Fortnight 2016.

Jason McCartney MP noted that the APPG have been in communication with DFID ministers Rory Stewart MP and Priti Patel MP on Fairtrade. A vast number of products available in Parliament are Fairtrade and the group will keep working to raise awareness and availability.

**2. Opening comments from the Secretariat to the APPG**

Michael Gidney, Chief Executive of the Fairtrade Foundation, thanked everyone for coming and extended special thanks to Jason and Holly for championing Fairtrade in Parliament.

The highlight of 2016 has been the launch of the new ‘[Fairtrade can, I can’](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/what-is-fairtrade/who-we-are/fairtrade-foundation-strategy-2016-to-2020) strategy and he talked through the four strategic themes (please click the link for more information).

Mr Gidney updated the APPG on the new partnership between the Fairtrade Foundation, Mondelez and Cocoa Life. Cadbury’s Dairy Milk block chocolate has been Fairtrade certified since 2009 but we have wanted to drive further and deeper change for cocoa farmers in West Africa. Fairtrade Foundation are now working with Mondelez on Cocoa Life, their cocoa sourcing programme, to expand across the whole of the Cadbury range in the UK and Ireland, but in a different way from traditional certification, meaning that the FAIRTRADE Mark will come off Dairy Milk bars in May 2017. There will be additional financing to help farmers deal with problems like climate change and an independent annual report from Fairtrade Foundation on progress and impact for farmers through the partnerships and recommendations for the future. While challenging in terms of a change from previous certification, Fairtrade believe that it shows a large company seeking to take more direct responsibility for their own social and environmental impact in their core business model. Fairtrade will continue to hold them to account against their commitments.

The recorded Q&A and further [FAQs on this partnership](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/cocoa-life-faqs) are available.

**3. Q&A on APPG for Fairtrade annual narrative and financial report**

None.

**4. Outline of plans for 2017**

Fairtrade Fortnight is taking place 27th February – 12th March and an event will be organised in Parliament to mark this occasion on 28th February in Committee Room A. The campaign will educate campaigners about the exploitation inherent in our supply chains, and encourage them to buy Fairtrade as a way of being sure that farmers and workers are benefiting from their choices. Campaigners will hold Fairtrade breaks to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight.

More can be seen here: <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight>

**5. Election of Officers**

Proposed by Carolyn Harris MP and agreed by all attending MPs.

The following were elected as Officers of the Group:

**Co-Chairs:** Jason McCartney MP (Con)

 Holly Lynch MP (Lab)

**Vice-Chairs:** Cat Smith MP (Lab)

 Mark Durkan MP (SDLP)

 Carolyn Harris MP (Lab)

 Jeff Smith MP (Lab)

**6. AOB**

None. The AGM, was followed by a campaigner event with a speech from Helen Robinson of Holme Valley Fairtrade, informal conversations between MPs and campaigners, and a photocall with all campaigners and MPs present.