**Amnesty Cirencester Group**

**Notes of meeting held on 13th May 2013**

**Present:** Bee Maidlow, Nikki Rawson, Mira Marvan, Marina Bielenky, Valerie Hindson

**Apologies:** Chris Stevens, Claire Morris, Ros Topley, Jean Whorwell

In Chris’s absence Val volunteered to minute the meeting.

**Minutes from 8th April**

Minutes from 8th April 2013 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**Matters Arising**

1. Val has drafted an email for AI to email to all members in our area. The draft was reviewed and agreed with minor amendments. It will need to go ASAP as it talks about the June meeting. Val to contact Ros to find out how we get it sent to the local members.
2. The Churn Family Fun day has been cancelled this year.

**Programme**

1. **June** Letter Writing – Val provided posters. We need a mixture of ready prepared materials to sign and letters to write from scratch.
All to bring letters to the next meeting relating to their campaigns.
Ros is providing some postcards for Zimbabwe campaign.
Val will find current urgent actions on the website to bring.
Val to request room is setup with table and chairs.
Val to ask Jean if she is willing to do the refreshments.
2. **July** Bee has emailed Gill Cleverley with regards to having the “Zimbabwe – elections free from fear” workshop in July, she has not yet heard back. Bee to follow up.
3. **Tibet** Marina’s initial contact on Tibet is unable to do September. Marina has now contacted the Free Tibet campaign, but has not yet heard back. We agreed to change target month to November to give us longer to sort this out. Marina to follow up
4. **Ethiopia**  Bee met Trevor Trueman at the AGM and he is willing to come. Jean has tried to call him but has not yet spoken to him, his voice mail suggested that he had a family problem so she did not leave a message. We agreed that as we have not yet been successful organising the Tibet speaker we should ask Trevor to come in September (instead of November). Bee to let Jean know change of date. Jean to try and make contact again.
5. **Summary for rest of year**

June – letter writing

July – Workshop on Zimbabwe – TBC

August – group meal

September – Trevor Trueman – TBC

October – Quiz night (no meeting)

November – Tibet – TBC

December – greetings cards

**Monthly Mailing**

1. The monthly action is a letter to the Ambassador for Bahrain with regards to Mr Abu Dheeb, former president of the Bahrain teachers’ association who has been imprisoned for calling strike action. Those present signed the letter.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Chris has provided Val with an update on the finances. Val forgot to bring it with her, apologies to Chris.

[Afternote: our current balance is estimated at £1400, but the cheque to ActionAid for £519 has not been processed, Val to follow up with Sarah Beadsmore]

**Campaigns**

1. There were no campaign updates.

**Events**

1. **Quiz Night – 11th October:** Sarah Beadsmore has agreed to cook for another even at the Organic Farm Shop. A date for the quiz of Friday 11th October has been agreed. Val has also contacted Dave who is willing to help get the quiz together but is away on the proposed date. All to keep the date free, but no further action needed until later in the Summer.
2. **Womad** – Bee is supporting the Reading group on the Amnesty stall – the action this year is for the women of Afghanistan.
3. **Stratton Fete** – Nikki is going to try and get a stall at this fete.

**AOB**

1. **Book shelf** – Dave has now run out of books and has handed over the management of the book shelf and they key (to collect the money). Val has temporarily agreed to take this on for Marina. We need to establish as supply of books. All to do anything they can to collect books!
2. **Cirencester AI leaflet** – this is out of date and could do with a refresh. Val has got the originals from Claire and will have a first go at this.

The business meeting closed at 8pm and was followed by Val and Bee providing feedback from the AGM which has already been distributed by email.