

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 4th November 2015, 7.30pm at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. **Welcome and Apologies** Present: 13 Apologies: 0

2. **Finance.**

The treasurer reported no change in the finance and has requested a new cheque book.

3. **Heathrow expansion.**

Many thanks indeed to Kim Cheetham for an informative talk. A general discussion followed.

4. **Feedback from meeting with Steve Baker MP**

Members met with Steve Baker last Friday re solar feed-in tariff with a low carbon Chilterns co-operative member and with a Solasave engineer. Summary:

- Steve Baker is against subsidies so the discussion started with common ground i.e. in due course should be zero subsidy.
- Discussed impacts on community installations briefly. The Solasave engineer talked about his turnover, how the previous drop in tariff has reduced business, now this latest proposed reduction has meant that panel manufacturers are withdrawing from the market so makes his business unviable by end of this year, as future projects cannot be guaranteed to occur or at least be on time, so will incur penalties.
- Steve Baker was alarmed by the company's scenario and offered to write to Amber Rudd and George Osborne to say that these proposals need to be altered and to make subsidies more gradual.
- The attendees at this meeting felt they were listened to and that it was well worth it.
- Steve Baker said we should deal with these things through a carbon tax. Perhaps we can use his support for a carbon tax in the future. The situation now relies on the government taking submissions seriously.

5. **Naomi Klein film**

It is thought to be possible to get a copy of the film through national FOE but doing it before the climate change march is now unlikely.

6. **Climate change**

- March in London on 29th November. Meet midday in Park Lane. More details will be circulated.
- A member talked to Bucks New Uni. They took the poster but not hopeful that it will be widely viewed.
- The special train to Paris for Summit is fully booked so high turnout at the march is expected.

7. **Future Events**

- Sat 7 Nov (9am-4pm) WEC climate change conference at BNU 'Can Women Cool it?'
- Sun 8 Nov (2-4pm) Population Matters, High Wycombe - film and presentation at WEC.
- Last chance to see WEC's exhibition on 'Sharing the Planet' exhibition. It will be taken down mid Nov.

8. **Ecotip** October's ecotip about hedgehogs will remain for November. Due to the mild weather it is still relevant.

9. **Any Other Business**

Fair Trade. A member from Fair trade would like to make links with other eco groups in High Wycombe. It was decided to make a link with them and put them on our email ring so they can discuss topics with us.

Morrison's – A member has found it difficult to make contact with them. They question whether they own the stream that runs through their site but suggested that litter picking may be acceptable! They asked for a written request, which was sent 2 weeks ago with no reply. A follow-up phone call was made but no-one could be contacted. Pending permissions, the litter pick will go ahead on Wednesday 19th November. Watch email ring for more information.

Permaculture films – This will be looked into with a view to showing them at a future meeting.

Website - As of November 2015 we now have a new site (same web address) which will bring a number of benefits.

12. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd December 2015 (with mince pies) at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ.