

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 2nd December 2015, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 14

Apologies: 4

2. Finance

We have a balance of £381 after paying arrears of meeting room charges and FoE Membership fee last month. A new cheque book had been received. It was mentioned that members of Fair Trade Wycombe wish to join e-mail ring.

3) Naomi Klein film: A member confirmed that the best price she has been offered is around £50 for a link to download the film. Haddenham & Thame have already shown the film. A member to enquire how much they paid. Also could follow up with FoE as to whether better deal should be available. We will wait for answers. We could show and ask for donations. We generally agreed we could pay £50 if we need to. No hurry now in any case. A member mentioned "Sceptics in the pub" (a local group) - could be interested.

4) Reflections and follow-up on the climate march. Reportedly about 40000 in London joined the march with 1/2 million world wide. About 7 of us travelled up from Wycombe to join in. There is good world wide coverage in Guardian. Lots of pics from around the world at <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2015/nov/29/global-climate-march-2015-in-pictures>. Follow-up conference planned for mid-Jan either by FoE or Climate change coalition.

5) What next with Morrisons: 6 of us turned up in total (not all FoE) to clear the river bed. A member from Wycombe Wildlife provided utensils. We cleared 30 or so dustbin bags of rubbish from the two sections of stream. We heard that in the past the stream was cleared regularly, but Morrisons no longer pay for that. It was noticed that the river banks have been hardened with concrete, so limited for planting close to river bed, but we could plant higher up on banks. The co-ordinator will communicate further with Morrisons.

6) Future Events: We decided to hold a more informal meeting in January at The William Robert Loosley pub and perhaps show the Naomi Klein film on another day in January – to be decided at the Jan. meeting.

7) Ecotip: We had some discussion on the Back British Farmers issue and it was mentioned that the Chilterns are actually better suited to grass and grazing than vegetable production. Landscape is often maintained through animals. There is clearly food for further thought here but it was the tip which provoked the most interest, so this is the one we are going with.

8) AOB: FoE organisational goal. FoE have an adopted organisational goal "[By 2030 the next generation can enjoy an environment that's getting better, with a safe climate, flourishing nature and healthy air, water and food](#)". They ask for input on whether they should develop the campaign on air-quality. An on-line

survey exists to consider whether they should, what it might involve and whether local groups want to get involved.

After a bit of discussion it was generally felt that FoE should probably be concerned but there didn't seem to be a time constraint on the survey. It was suggested that we make this lead topic for February meeting, and the co-ordinator will research a bit. Meanwhile we will respond that as a group, in principle, we think this is important.

Heathrow: West London FoE are expecting announcement of some sort by 17th Dec. but probably no final decision. Maybe postponed beyond London Mayoral election. FoE believes less air travel overall is required. Heathrow is already over legal limit of pollution, so how can another runway be justified. Dominic Grieve is against 3rd runway. He says it won't go ahead unless environmental requirements are met.

9) Permaculture videos We finished the meeting with a viewing of several short permaculture videos accompanied by mince pies and tea (oh yes, we know how to enjoy ourselves!).

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th January 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at the William Robert Loosely pub in Wycombe.

Chosen Eco-Tip:

Back British Farmers. Ask the Government to back fruit and veg from British farmers. At the moment, British farmers produce 84% of the meat we buy – but only 22% of the fruit and vegetables. On average, a farmer can feed up to 30 people throughout the year on one hectare with vegetables, fruits, cereals and vegetable fats. If the same area is used for the production of eggs, milk or meat, you can feed between 5 and 10 people. If we shifted to producing more of our own cereals, fruits, veg and nuts we could cut our carbon emissions by 73% and free up over a third more land to grow additional food. The Government is currently developing its 25 year food and farming strategy. If you agree that producing more of our own fruit and veg could help feed the nation and pay our farmers, contact your MP and make sure that your voice is heard. (More details at: www.foe.co.uk/green-blog/seven-ways-express-your-love-british-farmers)