

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting at Wednesday 4th February 2015, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG

1. Present and Apologies.

Present: 10

Apologies: 1

Names in **bold** denotes action required by that person.

2. The Business Bit

- Finance – WfoE is £415 in credit. £30 is to be paid for website fee.
- Website – National FOE provide local groups with a web area on the main website. We have renewed our editing rights on the local groups section of the national FOE website. The address of our page is www.foe.co.uk/groups/wycombe/. However any local group page can be found using the interactive map on the National FOE website through 'Get Involved' and 'Find a Local Group'.
- Wycombe Environment Centre is up and running well. Could WfoE have a film evening there? The Chiltern Centre Security needs £14 per hour to open up in the evening. It is possible that the Friends Meeting House is a better location from the point of view of ease and cost.

3. Contribution to AOB- added to agenda.

4. Campaigns (previous actions, ongoing campaigns, and environmental news and developments).

Report back on meeting on wildlife gardening with Wycombe Wildlife Group

- At a meeting last week between WfoE and Wycombe Wildlife Group, some possible projects for wildlife planting in High Wycombe were considered. The overall preference was for enhancing the stream through the Morrisons site. One of the WWG members will enquire from Revive the Wye about possibilities of joint action and they will enquire about funding as well as permission from Morrisons.
- Another possible area is the grass area on the corner opposite the Morrisons petrol station. Ownership will be sought in the first instance.
- The slope below Matalan in HW was promising (and steep) but for the moment it will be monitored during Spring and Summer 2015 to see what plants are already there.
- A patch at Little Marlow cemetery has some funding, is a larger area and has possibilities for wildlife enhancement.
- Other sites had a variety of problems and needed more input.
- The WWG member will make a plan and liaise Revive the Wye members.
- Permission was sought and agreed for some possible WfoE funding of around £100 for at least one of these projects as necessary.

Baregardens

- The BareGardens Website had lapsed but a member has revived it and it should go live shortly.
- It is planned to approach WEC to see if they have someone who would be willing to take this on since WEC is perfectly placed in the town centre for enquiries and could therefore be more successful than previously.
- A member will enquire and forward the email address of a WEC contact so that this can be progressed.

Run on Sun

- Two members contacted local schools in the autumn. However, no local schools are on the shortlist of 6 for being considered for free solar panels. More information will be available at the FOE Regional Gathering.
- A member will look into government policy on subsidies for renewables and clarify.

Municipal grass cutting – any updates or possible actions?

- A member will contact WDC and BCC to encourage more wildlife friendly grass cutting but it might be more productive to contact the Parish Councils as they are now responsible for grass cutting in their parishes. This would give local flexibility but Parish Councils will want to keep areas tidy to fend off complaints from the public.
- Two members to look into this and possibly approach these Parish Councils.

Marinet

- Marinet is now independent from FOE.
- We now have to pay a joining fee of at least £1 for legal purposes. It was agreed to join again and donate £10.

Possible items or speakers of interest for upcoming WFoE meetings

It has been agreed that every alternative month, WFoE should have a film or discussion on an environmental topic.

- A member has access to films on permaculture, trash and ice that we could view as a meeting. It was agreed to view Ivan's film on permaculture during the March meeting. Two members will view the quality and feasibility of showing it.
- Renewables versus fossil fuels – 'is the UK ready for a possible switch-over to renewables?' It would be interesting to find out more about this statement read by a member.
- There may be an opportunity to extract information about the green agendas from the manifestos of the political parties for our May meeting, which would be just before the General Election. We could take each of the main parties' green agenda to investigate and discuss.
- A member proposed investigating other things threatening planet Earth other than climate change, eg meteor strike, malaria, tsunamis etc.

5. Ecotip

It was agreed to keep the present Ecotip about date labels on food.

6. Forthcoming events

- 21st February – Regional Gathering in London at the new FOE offices.
- 7th March – London Climate march, more details at www.campaigncc.org/TimetoAct. It was thought that we could go as a group and we can arrange this at our March meeting which is a few days before the march.

7. AOB.

- Andy Atkins is stepping down as director of FOE. He has been in office for 7 years.
- The new FOE link person between national FOE and local groups is Laura Macfarlane-Stokes.
- The coordinator has forwarded an update on fracking by email.
- A Climate and Energy newsletter is sent out from FOE and the coordinator forwards this but it doesn't send properly. He will therefore send out the link so we can sign up for this ourselves.
- Thame and Chinnor FOE is thinking of donating environmental books to the local library. We could think about doing similar as the environmental area in Wycombe library is not great. Or we could donate relevant books to Thame and Chinnor FOE.

8. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th March 2015 at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG