

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting at Wednesday 1st April 2015, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG

1. Present: 9

Apologies: 5

Names in **bold** denotes action needed by that member.

2. The Business Bit - Finance – The group is £370 in credit.

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

► **Climate Change March** on 7th March – a member attended and reported it successful.

► **Wycombe Food Coop**

- a member introduced Suma – a catalogue supermarket that provides ethical (mostly organic and fair trade) food products in bulk. A certain amount has to be ordered for delivery to occur.
- A log in and password is needed to order online and there is a facility to share the bulk buys with someone if quantities are too large.
- Any goods ordered will be delivered and payment will be on delivery.

Wycombe Community Farm. A member from WCF attended. She is looking to set this up in the near future.

At present, she:

- is involved with developing the garden area around Arts4Every1 in Desborough Road, High Wycombe
- has an associate looking into alternative medicines and health products and has three other associates involved with various interests eg renewable energy
- is doing or has completed a 'starting new business' course and a horticulture course.
- has begun a 'Feed the Community' project but needs land
- has put WCF on Facebook
- has a waiting list for allotments
- has produced detailed documents itemising her plans, eg Feed the Community Project and Wycombe Community Farm Recycling Centre

Her intentions are:

- to seek a minimum of 4 acres of land to start the farm, derelict pieces of land for allotments and private gardens as land to cultivate. (BareGardens have gardens with no gardeners and may be of interest to WCF)
 - to apply for grants and also to fundraise in order to fund WCF.
 - that WCF will grow crops (perhaps introduce animals at a later date when established), have a café, a pharmacy, shop, teaching/information facility
 - that recycling points can be earned to redeem for goods from the farm
 - to speak to a Bucks university for a student to help with website
 - to teach (perhaps disadvantaged) people to cook the food
 - that profits will be put back into the project
 - to promote WCF more widely as plans progress
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- The WCF member was thanked by WFOE members for attending and explaining WCF. They were impressed with her plans, vision and energy and wish her well
 - WFOE will help where possible – eg will promote WCF on WFOE stalls
 - The WCF member will email WCF leaflets to WFOE so we can promote WCF at our Pann Mill stall on 10th May.

National FoE Dialogue Forum / Basecamp

- Dialogue forum operates online for groups and individuals to debate and vote for motions.
- National FOE will then consider such comments.
- This mostly replaces the motions process at conference except that changing some processes such as FOE rules and those based on law will have to undergo a more formal process.
- Basecamp is in Castleton - June 12th-14th 2015.

Joint project with Wycombe Wildlife Group

- the coordinator has spoken to Bucks CC about the land opposite Morrisons.
- A rather bafflingly discouraging cultivation license costing £125 is needed to work and plant on BCC land such as verges. This is so that, for example, public liability insurance is in place and some knowledge is established. It stems from the Highways Act. A Bucks cabinet councillor member would have to be approached in order to alter or waive this fee. (The district councils have passed responsibility for verges etc. to Bucks CC).
- The Morrisons stream might be dealt with by Revive the Wye but if we want to pursue this on behalf of WFOE and WWG, we may simply need to approach Morrisons in order just to tidy it up.
- The land around and on the slope outside Matalan will be monitored at present.
- the coordinator will arrange another meeting between WFOE and WWG.
- the coordinator has drafted a letter to the parish councils (approx 30) about this matter and WFOE will fund the postage. In the first instance however, he will email the letter, with a view to posting a letter if no response is gained.

Pann Mill Open day, Sunday 10th May 11am-5pm.

- It was decided to run a stall
- The purpose of the stall will be to raise funds, get known and to promote bees information
- 5 members volunteered to man the stall for a couple of hours and more help will be requested
- a member will ask WEC for volunteers and to share the stall perhaps
- a member will book a stall, set up the display board and a rota.
- a member will check and revamp (a bit) the bee leaflet to freshen it up for 2015.

Bare Gardens

A member, WEC and WCF need to get together to progress the Bare Gardens idea.

4. Ecotip – the March ecotip will be kept for April as it is still the major seed sowing season.

5. Forthcoming events

- Earth Day, Wednesday 22nd April
- Pann Mill Open day, Sunday 10th May 11am-5pm.
- Walk to Work week, 11-15 May
- Walk to School week, 18-22 May

6. AOB.

At our next meeting members will report on the view of 5 political parties on green aspects as the General Election is the following day on 7th May. We all look forward with keen anticipation to the results of their research.

7. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 6th May 2015 at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG.