

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting at Wednesday 6th May 2015, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Present: 9

Apologies: 2

2. The Business Bit - Finance – no change reported.

3. Any contribution to agenda? BareGardens and Wycombe Community Farm

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

• **Report back from the joint meeting with Wycombe Wildlife Group.**

The Morrisons stream project is likely to go ahead eventually but there were difficulties with the other sites. A member will approach Morrisons to explore the possibility of at least a clean-up of the stream on their site. Other potential sites could be viewed with councillor/s and those who are knowledgeable about the subject of bee-friendly/wild flower planting.

• **"This Changes Everything" brief report**

Naomi Klein's book 'This Changes Everything'. A member attended Naomi Klein's open day and her talk in Oxford. Her book sets out the problem with the current economic system that prevents us from protecting the environment adequately.

She claims that we could go over to renewables very quickly but the current economic system works against it. The oil companies already are planning 5 times more oil extraction than would keep temperatures within a 2° increase. Climate change means that right wing politics is not the way to go forward as it is capitalist and materialistic which will exacerbate climate warming.

• **Final arrangements for the Pann Mill stall (10 May).** Booked and all in hand. Rota is in place. Bee leaflet has been revamped for a 2015 version. Stall will be shared with Wycombe Community Farm. Plants and cards will be for sale probably.

• **Stall at Hamilton Fair** on 13 June, 12-4pm. A stall has been booked. There will be FOE T-shirts for sale and possibly plants, if available. **All members** – can anyone help please?

• **Climate Change Lobby of Parliament** planned for Wednesday 17 June. A number of environmental groups are planning to attend. 2 members plan to attend from WFOE but this has yet to be confirmed.

• **Arrangements for the AGM**

Guy Shrubsole, FOE Climate Campaigner, will speak at our AGM. Guy suggests he speaks briefly at the beginning of the meeting about the new government and climate change and the political situation here and internationally re the green agenda, and reasons to be cheerful! Hooray!!?? Then, after our AGM business meeting, he will take a group question and answer session to find out what people feel energised about and therefore what to take forward possibly this year. Other like minded groups will be invited.

For the AGM, an annual report, accounts and election of officers will be needed.

The joint coordinator will be in touch with Guy nearer the time re arrival and directions etc.

• **BareGardens**

A member has met with Wycombe Environment Centre and WEC will take on Bare Gardens. WFOE will liaise with someone at WEC about it. 3 gardens have been offered but there is a lack of gardeners to take them on currently.

5. The Ecotip

The Ecotip will be:

Had a spring clean and a turn out? Before throwing items away, see if anyone is looking for just the thing. Sign up to Freegle High Wycombe at

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/high_wycombe_freegle/info

6. Forthcoming events

- Pann Mill Open day, Sunday 10th May 11am-5pm.
- Climate Change lobby of Parliament, Wednesday 17th June.
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7. Main event - "How Green are the Parties" presentations and discussion.

Many thanks to five members for researching and presenting the green agenda for Labour, Liberal Democrats, Conservatives, the Green Party and UKIP, ahead of the General Election on 7th May. The information given by all contributors provoked much discussion.

If you wish to view a short summary of the climate policies for each of the main political parties go to the website of the Centre for Alternative Technology at:

<http://blog.cat.org.uk/2015/04/30/centre-for-alternative-technology-launches-general-election-manifestometer/>

or a BBC policy guide at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/election/2015/manifesto-guide>

8. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd June 2015 at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2LG. **This will be our AGM.**