

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009, 7.30pm

The Environment Centre, Holywell Mead, High Wycombe

**Present:** 15

**Apologies:** 2

### **1. Welcome**

Everyone was welcomed to Wycombe FOE's second AGM. The first one was in November 2008, but from 2009, AGMs will be held annually in June.

### **2. Minutes of last AGM were approved.**

### **3. Review of the year**

Summary of activities:

- **Jan 2009** Campaign discussion and planning meeting for 2009.
- **Feb 2009** Review of plastic bag free Eden brought change in tactics – focus only on shops that are seen to deserve necessary attention; continue to promote reduction of plastic bags, encourage shops to train their staff, promote national activities with PBF forum. Wycombe District Council is hoping to have a plastic bag free day which we would be keen to be a part of.
- **Mar 2009** Co-ordination between like-minded groups established. If anyone else can help by distributing a poster/posters, please contact us through the website.
- **April 2009** Election of national and local campaigns focus. Draft constitution drawn up.
- **May 2009** First planning meeting for Food Chain Campaign. 3 members attended Regional Conference to gain information. The Wooburn Park biodiversity issue was discussed and it was agreed to follow it up. A letter has been sent congratulating the idea of providing facilities for young people and drawing their attention to the importance of maintaining an area left for biodiversity.

Membership has increased since last year and members were encouraged to get involved even to a small extent to promote our campaigns.

### **4. Finance Report**

The new financial year began and ended in credit.

The income from membership shows an increase by one member over last year. Our main expenses for the year were for the Biofuels talk and for leaflets to do with the Eden campaign and were already mentioned in last year's report as they were incurred between the end of the financial year and our Annual General Meeting last November. There have been no expenses since November 2008.

### **5. Election of Officers**

- The Co-ordinator and will be handing over the duties to the deputy co-ordinator for a maximum of 6 months, until a new Co-ordinator can be found. This role could be shared between 2 or 3 people.

- In the absence of other nominations, the Treasurer will continue.

## **6. The Constitution**

A draft constitution was produced. The constitution was adopted, by majority vote, as a working document with possible changes to be made at a later date.

## **7. Food Chain Campaign.**

The Food Chain Campaign was outlined – see WFOE website for information.

Following last meeting these were the methods thought to be most achievable:

- Lobbying MPs
- Signing postcards to send to MPs, contacting people/companies in sympathy.
- Stalls – to receptive audiences, High Street, Environment Centre event 17/18<sup>th</sup> July, National Trust, Farmers Markets, Green Fayres, plus others (suggestions will be gladly received). Props, like sandwich boards (4, to be constructed).
- Public events, especially if national FOE could provide a high profile speaker (not likely before end of summer), local food suppliers.
- Contacting the media. The co-ordinator's letter was published in the BFP last week. It would be good to keep this dialogue going through letters in the BFP. Members were encouraged to write to the BFP. Anyone willing to find contacts etc. with the media, please email [wycombefoe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wycombefoe@yahoo.co.uk), It is important to persevere and send in many letters.
- Giving talks – if anyone would be willing to do this or find/know of a speaker, please email [wycombefoe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wycombefoe@yahoo.co.uk).
- Helping to promote Aylesbury Vale's Art Project for 18-30 year olds; entrants to artistically produce a poster about the Food Chain issue. Also needed is someone who can be a contact to attract 18-30 year olds. Again, anyone able to do this please contact [wycombefoe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wycombefoe@yahoo.co.uk).
- There is a Transition Town Food Group, promoting local food grown for local people. Anyone interested could attend Transition Towns meeting, 7.30pm on first Friday of every month at the Environment Centre.
- Keeping chickens on allotments will be investigated. (A number is available if anyone would like to re-home a battery chicken).

All members were encouraged to take on a little bit of the above each, thereby achieving a lot, rather than leaving it to a few who end up overstretched.

Needs to be attractive to a wide range of people (eg asking a high profile speaker, eg local farmer, MP, National FOE speaker), so a very small audience is avoided.

There will be a sub-committee meeting for those interested in the Food Chain Campaign next Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June. Anyone welcome – it will not commit you to getting directly involved.

Please email [wycombefoe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wycombefoe@yahoo.co.uk) if interested

The meeting closed with refreshments and informal discussion.

**8. Next meeting** will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July at 7.30pm until 8.00pm at the Environment Centre (first Wednesday of each month).