

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

## Minutes of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012, 7.30pm

at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe.

**Present:** 10

**Apologies:** 3

**1. Welcome and apologies** as above

**2. Ecotips and members' green tips**

January's ecotip will be:

*Now the nights are colder, draw your curtains. Close them when it gets dark and consider curtain lining to further reduce heat loss through windows - or get a second pair of curtains from a charity shop to act as lining material. Avoid putting curtains in front of a radiator - they will block the heat and funnel it straight out of the windows.*

There was a discussion about LED mains room lighting with normal, ie bayonet light bulb fittings. These consume a small amount of energy but members were warned about cheap components as they tend to blow up. However, they are improving and the cost is coming down so in the near future they will be worth investigating again.

**3. Finance**

Funds are stable.

**4. Forthcoming events**

- Our annual social will be on 20th January.
- Saturday 4th February South East Regional Gathering. The co-ordinator has been asked to conduct a presentation on the Local Food Guide. Members expressed interest in learning more about some topics and some of these will be covered at the South East Regional Gathering, rather than the previous offer of an expert coming out to local groups.
- On August Bank Holiday Monday (27th) Transition Town HW will hopefully hold a Wycombe Food Festival in the High Street, in conjunction with the Town Centre Partnership. It may include a fun day for children and other attractions, but food will be the main focus.

**5. FOE 2012 national campaigns sign-up**

Nothing more to add from last month's meeting, at present.

There was some discussion on the result of the judicial review on the solar PV feed-in tariff.

**6. BFP**

Contact has been made with the BFP. A member has written a sample article on local wildlife and management of woodland. 2 members are meeting with BFP to discuss the idea of submitting further articles.

**7. Baregardens**

- Information appeared in 'The Star' for two weeks (without the photograph that was taken) but not in the BFP which was disappointing. A member has been diligently following this up.
- There are 4 gardens up and running at the moment but there was no further response from the article in 'The Star'.
- The library will allow community groups to advertise their group on a display board upstairs outside the gallery.
- A member will consider delivering leaflets in the area where there is a garden available.

**8. HS2 – no update as yet.**

**9. Bucks CC Waste and Minerals Strategy –**

Comments have been submitted but it will not be possible for any members to attend the proposed meeting.

**10. AOB**

1. Hedge on Mill End Road. The planning officer has given permission for the fence erected outside Grant and Stone but the hedge that was taken out has to be replaced within 3 months of the decision date, which was mid November. This will be monitored.
2. The site adjacent to this has a planning application for a convenience store which has been recommended for approval.
3. Jem Bailey will be asked to talk at our February meeting.
5. It may be possible to arrange a talk at another meeting, about alternative energy ideas.
6. The possibility of extracting power from moving water at weirs in the Thames, eg Windsor, Boulter's Lock, Marlow and another near Oxford, was briefly discussed.

**11. Next meeting** will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012 (regular meetings on the first Wednesday of each month) at 7.30pm at **the Friends Meeting House**, 25 London Road, High Wycombe (on the corner of London Road with Stuart Road).