

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016, 7.30pm at  
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 10

Apologies: 3

## 2. Finance

No change, but room hire and website costs will be paid shortly.

## 3. Ecotip will be:

### Natural cleaning

Before reaching for expensive and toxic cleaning materials and fluids, consider a natural option – less packaging, less money, less toxic. You know it makes sense. Here are a few tips:

- If you have a wooden chopping board, here's a great way to give it a deep clean. Sprinkle with coarse salt and scour with a lemon wedge, squeezing slightly as you go. Leave for a few minutes, then scrape off the gunk, rinse with hot water, and leave to dry. No need for anti bacterial sprays.
- Before you reach for the bleach to clean the bins, try a less toxic solution. Sprinkle a spoonful of bicarbonate of soda in the bottom of the bin, add hot water (and a couple of drops of eucalyptus or tea tree oil or lemon juice if you wish). Swish around and rinse.
- Bits of food stuck in your microwave? Add a couple of lemon slices to a small bowl of water. Put it in the microwave, switch on for about a minute and then leave it for 10 minutes. The condensation will gently loosen the dried food. Then simply wipe clean and enjoy that fresh smell.
- Lemons could be sliced or wedged and frozen ready for above use. Or use that partly dried up lemon that escaped notice.

## 4. Future Events

- 29<sup>th</sup> February - Renewal of High Wycombe Fair Trade certificate at Bucks New University, 7.30-9.15pm.
- February 14<sup>th</sup> - Global Disinvestment Day.
- 19<sup>th</sup> March - SE Regional Gathering at FOE HQ in London.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Earth Day
- 3-5<sup>th</sup> June - FOE Base Camp in Derbyshire.
- 19<sup>th</sup> March - Earth Hour, 8.30-9.30pm - turn your lights off.

## 5. Naomi Klein film – update

- The film lasts about 1½ hours.
- The film has been paid for and will be delivered shortly.
- Date set for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 7.30pm for 8pm start, at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe.
- Entrance free but donations will be requested.
- An organisational meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm.

## **6. Report on 'Climate Rising'**. 2 members attended and gave feedback.

- The introduction contained feedback from the Paris Climate Conference. It was thought that the conference didn't go far enough and was not binding enough. Overall, it was agreed that global warming should be kept to under 1.5 °C but measures proposed would only reduce it to 3 °C. There is still not enough commitment from countries around the world – developed or underdeveloped. It needs a lead by a developed country for others to get on board. The UK Government does not seem committed to environmental issues.

- There were a number of workshops. The two members attended as follows.

1. 'Fracking and Open cast mining'. The mines in Wales and Northumberland are going ahead despite environmental damage.

2. 'One million climate jobs'. This looked at the job opportunities offered by the renewable industry.

3. 'Democratising energy – renewables for everyone'. People in the community could contribute to solar panels, for instance, to be installed on local community buildings.

4. 'Heathrow 13'. 13 people chained themselves together at Heathrow Airport and stopped 22 flights. The majority of flights are taken by those people flying regularly for work etc. rather than for holidays. Fuel for aeroplanes is not taxed, fuel for trains is taxed which doesn't make trains economic.

- The event finished with comments by Naomi Klein in Canada via video link.

## **7. Stall at John Hampden Grammar School on 24<sup>th</sup> February – organisation**

- A table will be provided and a back board.

- We will need to ask John Hampden Grammar School for a backboard and perhaps a power point.

- We also need to ask what is needed to affix posters etc onto the boards.

- We will take the FOE table cloth, bee information, the bee leaflet, climate change information. 4 members agreed to attend.

- A member will bring Wycombe FOE leaflets.

- Details will be discussed at the meeting arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> February (see above).

## **8. AOB**

- A member mentioned that litter seems to be a particular problem at the moment. It was thought possible that the recent high winds have been contributing to the problem. Two members mentioned the 'Clean for the Queen' initiative that is proposed this year in Flackwell Heath to coincide with the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Perhaps this can be extended to other areas.

- One of the co-ordinators will be preparing a talk on air quality at next month's meeting.

**9. The next meeting** will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House.