

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 6th April 2016, 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 7

Apologies: 4

2. Finance –

Film made £76.97 by donations at the film night and cost £53 + room hire, so the majority of costs of film night were covered.

3. Green living tip will be:

Eco products available at Wycombe Environment Centre.

4. Future Events

- Thursday 14th April, 7.30pm Chinnor and Thame AGM – speaker Dale Hoyland (from an Energy Advisory organisation) in Chinnor Village Centre.
- Sunday 15th May, 11am-5pm – Pann Mill Open Day.

5. EU Referendum

FOE is advocating an 'in' vote in the EU referendum as the environmental laws and regulations have been beneficial. National FOE is organising information-giving sessions around England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It was decided to put FOE EU leaflets on the Pann Mill stall.

6. Air quality

- A member has prepared an article and sent it to the BFP as a news item but, as yet, no acknowledgement. If no response, it could be altered slightly and sent in as a letter.
- Re fires – open coal fires are very polluting. Wood burners are less polluting as they are built to be more efficient and use a more renewable source.
- Wycombe has many traffic lights which means vehicles stop/starting affecting air quality.
- WFOE could ask WDC questions about their air quality policy at the next full Council meeting (specifically to the cabinet member for the environment) in order to highlight the issue. Questions have to be submitted a week in advance and the questioner must attend in person. Any follow up questions must be precisely relevant. The question could be 'Air quality levels have exceeded targets for several years in High Wycombe, what is the Council doing to combat this?' citing quoted deaths etc. The Council has some power when giving taxi licences to specify cars with lower emissions. One taxi company in Wycombe has a fleet of hybrid vehicles. It was decided to take this forward. Tuesday 4th May at 6.30pm is the next full Council Meeting and we will decide how strongly to form the question at the next WFOE meeting.

7. Naomi Klein film – 'This Changes Everything' shown on 23rd March

Overall, the film was felt to be interesting, well worthwhile and well attended so it was a successful event.

Lessons learned: It was felt that we should have asked how people had heard about the film and perhaps given them a slip of paper to invite them to the next meeting at which the film was to be discussed. We could also contact National FOE members who live locally. We needed to focus a bit more perhaps on gaining members etc.

8. Regional Gathering (in FOE offices near the Oval Cricket Ground)

A member of WFOE attended and reported as follows:

- There was a general introductory session, then sessions on the London Mayoral Election, Bees, Clean Air, 'Keeping it in the Ground' plus various sessions that people could organise ad hoc, ie regarding EU and local groups.
- There are many national members who are not members of a local group. Our co-ordinator proposed the suggestion that a mailings slip be sent out to National FOE members to invite them to their local FOE group, giving contact details – to be discussed at Base Camp in Castleton in Derbyshire during the weekend of 6/7th June.
- **All Wycombe FOE members** are invited to vote for topics to be discussed at Base Camp by visiting the National FOE website (eg above suggestion by our member).
- A member will check our local page is up to date on the National FOE website.

9. Bees and Pann Mill stall in May – Sunday 15th May

- It was decided to run a stall.
- A member to book and organise.
- The focus will be bees and climate change information plus some leaflets on EU membership.

10. Group Handbook

- Three members have looked at the handbook.
- There are some personnel changes to be made.
- The Constitution should stay as it is.
- The introductory sheet needs to be altered slightly.
- Perhaps there should be points to be followed for events like a film evening so there is a set procedure to follow. A member has a rudimentary document which she will update to include lessons learned from the Naomi Klein film, and procedure for setting up the Pann Mill stall etc.
- The three members will look at possible changes and report back to the whole group.

11. AOB

No further AOB

12. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at The Friends Meeting House.