

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 1st March 2017 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: 9. A visitor was welcomed to the meeting.

Apologies: 3

Names in **bold** denote action required by those persons.

2. Finance – no change.

3. Green Living tip of the month will be:

Sow a Poppy Patch for nature this Spring – even on a balcony.

*Fast-growing annual plants grow from seed to a mass of flowers in a few months, providing a buffet for bees, food for birds, and dense cover for other creatures. Pollinating insects, birds and bats are having a tough time finding food to eat, as many of their natural habitats are being wiped out. By sowing a poppy field for nature, even on a balcony, you'll create a lively and colourful feeding ground that is bound to prove popular with wildlife near you. Fast-growing annual plants grow from seed to a mass of flowers in just a few months. It's really easy. How to do it at:
www2.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden/garden-activities/sowapoppypatch/*

4. Air Quality

We have received six more diffusion tubes from National FOE. WDC are about to identify an air quality development area and have made suggestions with regard to sites for the diffusion tubes. Most useful would be near to the facade of a residential property. Locations were agreed and two members will set them up in the next day or two.

5. Wycombe Sound

- Next Thursday, 9th March, 7pm, we have been offered a slot on Wycombe Sound radio to talk about environmental topics. The slot is called Wider World and there is a probability of further slots. Clare Sherman presents the programme. The programmes are recorded and put on their website for a few weeks.
- A WFoE member will attend. It was decided that he will explain what National and Wycombe FOE is and then go on to talk about a few of the campaigns we have followed such as bees, plastic bags, air quality, coffee cups. Also to mention our meetings and contact details and future events on the website. There might also be an opportunity also to ask the public about their environmental concerns.

6. South-East Regional Gathering in Guildford – brief report by a member.

40 people attended. Several workshops were available.

The member attended the air quality campaign workshop. District authorities are responsible for air quality but County authorities are responsible for roads.

Media and Recruitment and Retention.

Also briefings about elections for the National board.

7. Citizens' Climate Lobby (Wycombe Sceptics in the Pub) – brief report by Ivan.

- This group hosted a talk about a *Carbon Tax at Source* which two members attended. Such money could get distributed to the population rather than automatically to central Government.
- The speaker made a good case. A member will explore the possibility of inviting him to one of our meetings to discuss this. Another possibility that he will explore is to ask Chris Church, chair of Oxford FOE and on the FOE National Board to attend one of our meetings possibly to talk about what Oxford FOE does and how it recruits young people.

8. Future Events,

- Sunday 14th May – Pann Mill. It was decided to run a stall at this, highlighting the air quality campaign. A member to organise.
- Eco-drinks. A member meets regularly with ex Environment Centre volunteers on Fridays in the Falcon at 4pm until about 5pm. Other like-minded people are welcome to attend but it is recommended that they email Ivan first to make sure they are meeting that week.
- Earth Hour – 25th March 8.30-9.30pm. Turn off the mains electricity and find ways of existing without it! (<http://gridwatch.templar.co.uk/>).
- Wednesday 29th March 7.20-9.30pm - Population Matters Film - 'Sense and Sustainability' at the Friends Meeting House.

9. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 5th April**, 2017 at 7.30 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, address above.