

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm at  
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

**Present:** 13

**Apologies:** 1

## 1. Finance and Ecotip

The bank account is in credit, after website and room hire expenses and honey donations income.

The Ecotip for March will be:

**Switch Off.** 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning the engine on and off (NJDEP). Turn your engine off when you are sitting for more than 10 seconds, especially near children and in urban areas where pollution levels are already high. (Source – Green Faith)

## 2. Air Quality

- A member attended a meeting at Wycombe District Council for the Action Group. There was a good range of participants.
- Follow-up meetings will be arranged with participants to discuss in more detail what could be done in a practical sense. An action plan will be published before too long.
- WFoE members gave the member delegated authority to respond to consultations.
- Freight policy says air quality is poor in some parts of the county so we could emphasise and hopefully extend that idea more specifically.
- Clean Air day - 21<sup>st</sup> June.

**3. Partnership renewal.** This will be looked into further next month.

## 4. Visit to Greatmoor Energy from Waste plant in February

- 10 members visited Greatmoor. It was an enjoyable and interesting trip with a very approachable and well informed tour guide. Feedback was positive and appreciative.
- It was agreed to donate to Sustainable Wantage as a contributory gesture.
- Questions raised about the plant: Waste bins? Use of excess heat? Requires constant rubbish.

## 5. Politicon event – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

- Three members attended on behalf of Wycombe Friends of the Earth.
- The event took the form of stalls from political parties and action groups, for perusal by sixth form pupils. We produced a stall with a display and leaflets about WFoE and our campaigns.
- For the final hour, there was a discussion between the attendees and a panel of sixth formers of different views. A member made a comment in support of jobs in, and the increasing economies of, renewables in response to a statement made about jobs in fossil fuels and climate change.
- A member found the tick sheet asking which environmental issue was most important to attendees, very useful as a tool to engage in conversation.

## 6. GDPR (new data protection regulations)

- New rules come into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and we need to take account of the guidance. Their key point is the need to get clear consent to hold contact details and in what form, and will apply to those on our contacts lists.
- We could either send one message about the Greenpeace event and ask for permissions or send two messages – one of each. Two members will liaise on this.
- A member has obtained suggested wording which includes asking for different contact methods.
- We agreed to add that email is our preferred method of contact.
- A member will send this out to those on the contacts list.

## 7. Future events.

Next Regional Gathering is in South London on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Earth Hour is on 24<sup>th</sup> March 8.30-9.30pm.

More on 'Green Events' on our website – [www.wycombefoe.org.uk](http://www.wycombefoe.org.uk)

## **8. Remaining preparations for the Greenpeace event – April 4th at 7.30pm**

- Main room has been booked. Speaker - Julia Spragg.
- Members will bring laptop, speakers, screen and projector, display boards and WFoE banner and have a table for leaflets about WFoE and our campaigns as well as other organisations such as Wycombe Wildlife Group possibly.
- Three members will organise refreshments.
- A member will enquire about Julia's method of travel and suggest she arrives by 7.15pm. She will need expenses paid.
- Two members will arrive at 6.15/6.30pm to set up. Doors to open at 7pm.
- A member will put the information on the website.
- Content will cover Greenpeace's approach to campaigning, past and current – in particular the defence of the Antarctic Ocean and its wildlife.
- The event will need publicity. A member will contact several groups, such as Wycombe Wildlife Group, Revive the Wye about the event plus BFP, WDC etc. A member will send out the information on the wider contacts list. A member has produced posters for members to take and put up in likely places. If members have ideas of organisations to be contacted, please contact Ivan. A member said that Facebook and Twitter are good areas for publicity.

## **9. Main debate: campaign issues for 2018: food or plastics**

- A member gave a presentation on plastics waste and suggesting we could approach schools, hospitals, companies. A member collated opinions expressed about a food waste campaign.
- It was decided unanimously to campaign on reducing, but especially recycling, plastic waste; for example, perhaps the Council should encourage individuals to recycle and make it easy for people.
- Members to send Sally ideas for possible areas for action.
- A member will distribute the information she presented and will collate a list of possible actions in the next 2 weeks. A member offered to look at plastic waste in schools.

**10. The next meeting** will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018.