

Wycombe Friends of the Earth
Minutes of Meeting, incorporating the Annual General Meeting held
Wednesday 5th June 2019 at 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

Present: 20

Apologies: 5

Actions are indicated in **bold**.

1. Annual General Meeting

- The minutes of last year's AGM, which had been circulated to members before the meeting, were approved by those present as being a true record.
- The coordinator highlighted key points from the Review of the Year, hard copies of which were available to take away, and which had also been circulated to members.
- The Annual Accounts and Report had also been circulated to members, and were noted.
- Election of Officers (Coordinator and Treasurer): Both indicated their willingness to continue as Coordinator and Treasurer respectively. Other expressions of interest or nominations were invited but none received. Both were duly nominated and seconded from the floor, and re-elected.

2. Presentation by Aaron Kiely

(The images from Aaron Kiely's presentation have subsequently been circulated to members, but this is a summary of the key points.)

Over the next two years, FoE's Climate Ambition campaign aims to create a groundswell of community concern and action, and thereby to ramp up pressure on the government to take the necessary urgent actions to avoid the risk of catastrophic run-away climate change. It will seek a commitment from government to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2045, and has set out a series of measures covering transport, buildings, land-use, infrastructure and so on to accomplish this.

Where FoE believe they bring a unique perspective is that these measures are well-researched and evidence-based, and also have regard to other environmental (such as biodiversity), well-being and social justice issues, rather than dealing with climate change "in a bubble".

It also draws on FoE's experience of grassroots campaigning through its local groups network. It envisages that an important way of building demonstrable community concern will be through local 'climate action groups', bringing together all sections of society with an interest in the issue to develop local action plans for their area. These could be an evolution of existing Friends of the Earth Local Groups, or new groups in which FoE Local Groups participate.

Resources and training to facilitate the setting-up of such groups will be made available, with an aspiration that around 200 will be set up.

The timeline of the campaign is also designed to exploit the opportunity provided by the UK's hosting of the next major climate summit in December 2020.

In discussion, the potential opportunity to engage with Buckinghamshire's new unitary council was raised, and attention drawn to an innovative policy in Wycombe District Council's new Local Plan about increasing tree cover; A member to send details to FoE [will do once Policy wording finalised].

How to take forward this campaign locally will be the primary topic for the July meeting. **ACTION: All to give some thought to this in advance.**

3. Other business

A member gave more details of the 'Plastic Attack' (to highlight the amount of plastic packaging effectively forced on consumers by producer and supermarket practice), which was to take place the following Saturday, and encouraged as many people as possible to take part to maximise impact.

She also spoke about the growing importance of community action and self-help as centralised government structures struggled to cope with the enormity and urgency of various environmental challenges.