

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7.30pm at
The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ

Present: 9

Apologies: 6

1. Finance and Ecotip

- > The ecotip for March will be promoting 'The Pantry at 51' an eco cafe with a 'fill your own container' facility. Similar outlets are Four State, Spittle Street, Marlow and Seed One, Liston Court, Marlow.
- > Finance - in credit after paying website expenses and room hire.
- > Should WFoE move to online banking? After discussion, it was decided to enquire about ease of use and whether there can be two signatories.

2. The climate emergency campaign

Seven people are on this committee from last month's meeting to further this campaign. They have met to take this forward. It aims to encourage prospective new unitary council candidates to pledge to take serious account of climate change when making their decisions. Actions so far:

- > The group will invite other groups to join the alliance and act in their areas so that the whole of Bucks will be reached. 16 core groups will hopefully be identified who will take responsibility for contacting the candidates as a group as well as individuals.
- > A template letter has been drafted for members of the public to send to Council candidates.
- > Signing a pledge could provide a framework for action.
- > Media coverage will then be sought.
- > Need a Facebook page to reach more people so anyone can access the letter to candidates as well as for other information and a link could also go on the WFoE website.
- > A variety of organisations will be contacted to add weight to the campaign. A member will research some groups in all the Bucks areas.
- > Mid-end of March is the deadline for candidates to declare themselves and, shortly afterwards, names of candidates will be published, so hopefully, the above actions should be set up by the beginning of April so that the candidates can be contacted.
- > A member will book the big room for our April meeting with a view to inviting more members of the Climate Action Group to discuss further steps.
- > A member will promote this initiative on Wycombe Sound on 17th March.

3. Local Food Guide -

The 'Food on our Doorstep' booklet lists food outlets within 10 miles or so of High Wycombe with at least one locally sourced food item and was originally set up in 2010 in collaboration with Transition Town High Wycombe.

- > There was some discussion about whether to update and continue this directory as it could be a lot of work to do so. It was decided to try to continue this, perhaps not in its present full form. and perhaps ask the WFoE membership if anyone can take a part of this on.
- > As a starting point, some members will find out if the listed businesses are still running:

4. Finding Greta

A member has organised this and found someone to make a poster and then he will approach schools.

- > Applicants will send a video with their application which WFoE will evaluate. Deadline by end of August. Those short-listed will then be invited to address a live audience, and Wycombe Fair Trade and Marlow Energy Group have agreed to be on the panel for judging the speakers.
- > There is a link 'Finding Greta' on the WFoE website for more information: www.wycombefoe.org.uk/speaker-competition-finding-greta
- > It was agreed that WFoE could put up £50 for a prize or for hiring of the event.

5. Air Quality - nothing to report at present.

6. Clearing the Hughenden Stream.

- > A member has met with someone from Friends of the Wye, and a member has met with the Manager and the Charity and Community support officer at Morrisons who said she would authorise a group to clear it of rubbish.
- > We will wait for news from Friends of the Wye with a view to joining them in a clearance operation.

7. Bucks Divestment.

A member attended a demo in Aylesbury with approximately 40 people. Aylesbury Vale XR and Aylesbury Quakers are trying to get the local press to highlight this action.

8. Events and AOB

- > Pann Mill - 10th May.
- > Wycombe Rye Summer Festival - 14th June. £30 to have a stall. A member will find out more and make a provisional booking.
- > Eco Action Families Beaconsfield are running an Eco Week from 21st March. There will be eco events during the week to encourage the public to take eco actions. eaf@ecoweek.com
- > Extinction Rebellion Chilterns is presenting a public talk on 24th March to get to grips with the science behind the climate emergency and its implications for future generations, and share ideas about how to respond as individuals and as a community. All welcome. Admission is free. Venue: Cafe Space, Wycombe Arts Centre, Desborough Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2PU.
- > There is a 40 day multi faith vigil outside parliament to express concern for the Earth.

The next meeting of Wycombe Friends of the Earth will be on Wednesday 1st April 2020, 7.30pm at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BJ.