

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of **Annual General Meeting** held Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 7.30pm  
online via Zoom

**Present through Zoom:** 12

**Apologies:** 4

**1. Minutes of last year's AGM** were approved.

## **2. Annual Report**

The Coordinator had circulated his report previously for members to read. In summary, we have managed to keep going through Covid via Zoom. Pre-Covid, we held Climate Emergency stalls at Pann Mill, in the Eden centre and at John Hampden School's 'Politicon' as well as conducting several interviews on Wycombe Sound. 'Finding Greta' was launched - a competition to find a young person locally who could speak and inspire Climate action. In February a brainstorming session with other like-minded individuals and groups saw the birth of Bucks Climate Action Alliance which has been active online - it's intention to 'encourage' the new Bucks Unitary Authority to take account of the climate emergency in decision making. Going forward we need more campaigning and more use of social media.

## **3. Account and Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer had circulated her report previously for members to read.

In summary, £308.71 is in the bank - down on last year.

We need 24 members to cover room hire and a further 6, ideally, to cover the website expenses, making 30 members needed overall for very basic expenses. Otherwise, clearly, we need additional events just to break even over a year.

## **4. Election of officers**

The coordinator, treasurer and secretary were re-elected. A new webmaster was elected.

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After the AGM, there followed a brief business meeting, minutes as follows.

## **1. Climate campaign**

### a. Meeting with Bucks Council's climate officer Edward Barlow

Bucks CC wants to complete a greenhouse reduction policy by 9th Feb ready to be signed off by full Council. There was a discussion about how BCAA can add input to this. There is another meeting in 2 months time. Public consultation on the draft will run from mid November to mid December.

## b. Community Boards

Members who have become, or are likely to become, members of the following boards as individuals:

Wycombe Community Board:

Environment and Climate Change sub-group: 3 members, 1 on behalf of WFoE

Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye Community Board:

Covid 19 and Regeneration sub-group - 1 member

Transport sub-group - 1 member

Community and Open Spaces sub-group - 1 member.

## c. Build Back Better (or FOE's 'Green and Fair Recovery')

The coordinator wrote to Steve Baker, MP, on behalf of WFoE, about to ask him to support the nine specific spending pledges proposed by national FoE for the comprehensive spending review and he circulated the reply.

## **2. Finding Greta update**

A member gave a summary for new members. There is a poor take-up currently - probably due to Covid. Young people need to be reached more successfully to get them more involved. We will set 'Finding Greta' aside for post Covid times. Tiktok is a good way to reach young people. Contact through schools is needed probably and The coordinator is willing to do a school talk if required. A member suggested getting a young person engaged to promote this on social media.

## **3. Objections to the Planning White Paper**

Planning decisions will go through automatically without local Council and sustainability scrutiny. It would also reduce the amount of social housing required. There is a consultation on this which closes on 29th October. Find it at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

## **4. The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill – can we help?**

Proposed by Caroline Lucas - currently has about 70-80 MPs backing it - none from the Conservative Party. There will be a draft letter to be sent to MPs about this. Meetings with local MPs will at least raise the profile of the bill but be assured that no-one will be required to do this alone - it will be as part of a group/s.

## **5. New FoE Nature campaign**

This is being designed at the moment and will be rolled out at the beginning of 2021.

## **6. AOB**

A member of the Chiltern Society said that they are working on delivering carbon net zero for the Chilterns by 2030. The Chiltern Society is keen for local communities to get involved and intends to set up milestones for doing this.

The **next WFoE meeting** will be on Wednesday 4th November, 7.30pm via Zoom.