

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of **Annual General Meeting** held Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 7.30pm
in Friends Meeting House and online via Zoom

Present in person/via Zoom: 15

Apologies: 5

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

2. Annual Report

WFOE has been largely ticking over due to Covid so campaigns have been restricted. However, members have been involved with local government through local boards. Wycombe Environment has been created out of the Environment and Climate Change subgroup of the High Wycombe Board. which some WFOE members are involved with. BCAA has continued and is functioning well post election, working on cooperating with political parties to push the agenda re climate change.

3. Account and Treasurer's report

The Treasurer role was passed to a different member in April 2021. Membership fees from 19 members were received. The annual website cost fee was the only expenditure.

4. Election of officers

Members currently in the roles of coordinator, treasurer, secretary and webmaster will continue and were agreed.

5. Electronic Communications Subgroup

We are rather out of date. A subgroup was set up.

6. Any necessary actions arising from above - none.

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

1. Ecotip

British produce is in full swing now so reduce your carbon footprint and buy local. There are 'Pick your Own' strawberries and gooseberries and blackcurrants at Peterley Manor Farm in Prestwood as well as their usual farm shop. Also, local produce is available at Lacey's Farm in Lane End.

(Some of the more up to date content of the Local Food Guide will be placed on our website).

2. Finance - as above.

3. Solar Streets

- This is a bulk solar panels installation scheme with approx 25% discount for householders due to scale.
 - The programme will be launched for High Wycombe on 22nd July. It is already working in various places around High Wycombe.
 - The launch will consist of an online event on Zoom and attendees will need to pre-register. It will be a presentation by the Green Group, with questions and a chance to ask questions of the installer - IDDEA. The link will be circulated to WFoE.
 - Please spread the word. There is a big banner available and leaflets can be requested for your local area.
 - The website for Solar Streets High Wycombe will be up and running shortly.
 - A number of organisations are backing the scheme including WFoE.
- It is not a Community Board project so is not restricted to the town itself but perhaps an approximate 5 mile radius of HW, e.g. Downley, Loudwater.

4. COP26

- It would be beneficial to have something in the HW area for people to relate to. Chilterns XR are planning action but no fixed plans yet.
- When we know which topics are to be covered (though it will include a review of the Paris Accord) we could organise something around the agenda topics, once finalised.

5. The Great Big Green Week

- 18-26 September 2021 - a COP 26 warm up event. This is a national week of events celebrating action on climate change.

6. Pann Mill

It is hoped that the next Pann Mill Open Day will go ahead on Sunday 12th September 11am-5pm. WFoE has registered an interest in running a stall.

7. MP and the GWPF

- We need to get the message across that people do not need to fear climate change measures. On the other hand it is not sustainable to live as we are living and we need to consume less. Against his narrative, if GB could be among the first to help solve it, we could be at the forefront of this movement but we need empathy for people in other countries who will be affected.
- MP says climate change measures will lead to a lack of prosperity and will compromise life-style.
- It may be important not to give publicity to this but to concentrate on countering the facts stated that are incorrect.
- We should tap into local issues and make it relevant, e.g. Solar Streets demonstrates that costs can be cut at the same time as helping climate change.
- It is important that others are not influenced.
- We agreed to set up a subgroup to deal with this.

8. Forthcoming events

- Sunday 11th July 2021 is World Population Day, set up to raise awareness of population issues around the world, backed by scientists. **Ed** to email details.

Questions:

What is a scientifically defensible population for the planet and how to reach it?
Should the UN have a population goal and, if so, what should it be?

9. Any Other Business

- The blended meeting works well. Not sure if rent for the room will change.
- Bucks Council Pension divestment - 2 members met the FOE pension expert. Brunel, who manages the pension fund, have 4 graphs and the 4th is it's performance related to carbon emissions, which is positive.
- A member met the sustainability person at Brunel and he will continue a conversation with her.
- A member is having conversations with councillors to push forward the climate change message but it will take time.

The **next WfoE meeting** will be on Wednesday 4th August 7.30pm via Zoom.