

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of **Annual General Meeting** held Wednesday 1st June 2022 at 7.30pm
in Friends Meeting House and online via Zoom

Present in person at the Friends Meeting House: 2

Via Zoom: 9

1. Minutes of last year's AGM

Minutes of last year's minutes were approved.

2. Annual Report

The Co-ordinator had distributed his annual report for 2021-2022. Briefly: monthly meetings have been hybrid meetings on Zoom and at the Friends Meeting House. There has been little campaigning but there has been collaboration with other eco groups. Cop 26 and Pann Mill stalls were run. WFoE should be a campaigning group - perhaps a specific topic and a member, who is not the co-ordinator, could take this forward. A High Wycombe Climate Conference may go ahead.

3. Accounts and Treasurer's report

- Main income is through subscription (24 paid up members), repair cafe and street collection.
- WFoE is a Banker for Wycombe Environment which received grants from Red Kite and HW Community Board. After all expenses and incomes taken into account, WFoE has a surplus of £47.
- There are problems with the Co-op banking - payments can't be made because of a software problem. The treasurer will contact the bank again to try to resolve this.
- Cost of the Meeting House is £25 per month but not many members attend in person. It was decided to have a few (perhaps quarterly) face-to-face meetings which can double as a social gathering. Liz, Steve and John all have Zoom licences. **Richard** will contact Julia and enquire whether an intermittent (possibly quarterly) hiring of the meeting house will be acceptable.
- 4 months rent for the meeting house is due because of the problems with the bank.

4. Election of officers

- The Co-ordinator was elected
- The Treasurer was elected
- The secretary will continue.
- The webmaster will continue but the website needs updating. If anyone can help, please say.
- The Facebook page is quite active. Other roles will be requested on this.
- A Whatsapp group will be considered.
- A deputy or joint co-ordinator or campaign officer would also be desirable - please let us know.

5. Any necessary actions arising from the above - as above.

The AGM was followed by a Business Meeting - below.

1. Finance - as above. Thanks to those who have paid subs and other members are reminded that subs are due.

2. Ecotip as on agenda - local eco items and local eco food outlets.

3. Campaigning

- As mentioned above, WFoE needs a campaign officer who might deal with a particular topic or respond to local issues. This officer could reach out to the public and lobby Bucks Council to urge them to take a lead from other areas who are active re: climate change. BCAA has been lobbying councillors from within. WFoE could try to get the public more involved in what councillors are doing re climate action. Councillors are more likely to act if electorate are more energised.
- If questions are raised, it helps environmentally minded councillors to respond and raise the profile. So questions and letter writing helps to raise issues and other councillors can follow up.
- The neighbourhood plan in Hazlemere consultation - member to send details on email group.
- Development Brief comes out in a few days. The shift towards more environmental considerations is happening but would benefit from continual pushing from WFoE and individuals. Members are encouraged to convey honest feelings, don't worry about whether it is wrong or not official etc. This could be a campaign action but all members are asked to be involved.
- The consultation on food waste (incl. composting) is extended to 12 June. A member to provide link on email group. Urging environmental actions have more success if linked with cost savings for the Council and/or the public, e.g. housing insulation also helps householders with costs.
- Wycombe transport strategy hasn't progressed.
- Bucks Climate strategy - 2050 target for net zero for council, with 2030 as an aspiration, subject to resources. All members are requested to write to ask for a 2030 net zero target. If members of WFoE or the public don't write, Councillors will not be energised to do anything about it. If 2050 is a target, what are the milestones - this can be asked in emails and letters (If a question is asked by WFoE as the organisation, suggestions should be made - as individuals, less so).
- Some conservative councillors are energised about trees and nature etc. Planning dept is considering environmental aspects but needs further pushing so emails and letters **really** help.
- Planning dept is being pushed to consider environmental aspects but needs further pushing so, again, emails and letters **really** help.
- A member to monitor planning and eco issues, then ask members to write as individuals would add weight for the Council to be more urgently active. The Facebook Page could also be used.
- Perhaps the 3 top consultations could be highlighted as an agenda issue each month - members then write to the Council about them. A member is willing to do this.
- A member suggested that, to be more effective, a list of relevant councillors and committees could be added in the minutes.
- Good practice would be to send the same message to your local councillors and the relevant cabinet member for that particular topic.

4. Forthcoming events

- WFoE could attend Pann Mill (12th September) and Marlow Carnival Saturday (17th September).
- Wycombe Sound - is starting an environment session on 15th June every Wednesday afternoon. The coordinator is one of the presenters.

5. AOB

- Bucks Council are running compost courses and encouraging allotment holders to send excess produce to food banks. 16th June composting session. Members will send details through the email group.

6. The next WFoE meeting will be on Wednesday 6th July, 7.30pm via Zoom probably.