

# Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of **Annual General Meeting** held Wednesday 5th July 2023 at 7.30pm  
in Friends Meeting House

**Present in person at the Friends Meeting House: 10**

**Apologies: 3**

## 1. Minutes of last AGM

Minutes were approved as being correct.

## 2. Annual Report

The sad loss of coordinator, Steve Morton, has dominated our year - a great loss to many environmental groups, not just WFoE. Meetings have been Zoom calls since Covid but still good to meet face to face sometimes, if not every time. A couple of socials have been reasonably successful but perhaps we'll try a walk next time. Campaigning: we should be doing more but we are limited with time and people to undertake the work. Warmer Homes campaign is the FOE current campaign and FOE are keen for High Wycombe to take a strong role in this. Events have been more successful. WFoE has been involved with Wycombe Environment's Bee Squared project, and raising awareness of Climate Change and Wycombe Environment's Repair Cafe and Scrap Store. Pann Mill stalls have been successful. Marlow Carnival in September was also successful; it was part of a bigger event. WFoE attended the Energy Efficient Homes day in Princes Risborough with stalls and lectures. WFoE has registered with Bucks Council's green group contacts list. Steve would speak on Wycombe Sound.

## 3. Accounts and Finance Report

A complicated year. We held finances for Wycombe Environment but now have handed all their funds over to Wycombe Environment Centre.

WFoE income £193, Outgoings - £150. End of year - £614 in balance in total at year end.

## 4. Election of Officers

- a. Coordinator - Richard Andrews
- b. Treasurer - Sally Jay
- c. Webmaster - Ivan Cicin Sain
- d. Secretary - Jean James
- e. Social Media team. Facebook Administrator - Ivan Cicin Sain and Liz Chisnall  
Twitter - Ivan Cicin Sain and Gemma Rogers.

With no other nominations it was agreed that the above will continue their roles.

## 5. Any necessary actions rising from above - none.

A short business meeting followed.

**1. Ecotip will be:**

**Buy fresh and avoid plastic**

There is plenty of fresh, locally or British grown produce available now. Buy at local farmers markets or stalls and look at the labels in supermarkets and cut your carbon footprint by buying as locally as possible. Fresh produce is better for your health than processed foods and has a smaller carbon footprint. Also avoid plastic cartons and bags where you can.

(Booker Garden Centre will take their compost bags and black pots back for recycling. Members will ask what happens to them and will follow up a Recycling plant trip.)

**2. Finance** - 14 x £10 membership fees have been received. £760 in the bank.

**3. Consultations**

- a. Active Travel. Bucks Council had a consultation, one for HW and one for Bucks. A number of members commented on the plan.
- b. Air Quality. A summary of the Wycombe Active Travel were presented at a recent meeting. The majority of the 200 responders supported the proposal and were keen to walk locally. Responders perhaps didn't represent the ethnic spread of HW. No other opportunities to comment on Active Travel at the moment.

**4. Campaigns**

Warmer Homes (National FoE campaign) - 5 areas in the country where FOE would like this particularly supported, High Wycombe is one. It hopes to encourage the government to improve properties, re: insulation etc. and change Building Regulations so that new builds have solar panels and more insulation. We are asked to reach out to the MP and to the public.

**Simon** will look into this.

**5. Social media** - no more than 200 followers on our Facebook Page. Items are being posted more frequently so the number of followers should improve, hopefully.

**6. Stalls**

1. Amersham - 10th June. Went well. Many people showed interest. Good opportunity to connect with other groups. Very worthwhile. Primary school children seem to be better informed/interested than secondary school children. Amersham Council and Tesco's Amersham Community Champion are enthusiastic. There is an opportunity to follow this up with Wycombe Tesco. Would anyone like to take this up?
2. Festival of Wellbeing, High Wycombe. 17th June. Our stall was not well placed for footfall and had few members of the public passing.
3. Pann Mill Sunday 9th Sept - decide whether to attend next month
4. Marlow Carnival, Saturday 16 Sept in Higginson Park. Booked.

**7. Air Quality**

Meeting on 14th June. Bucks Air Quality team were present. They gave an update of the current situation. They cover the whole of Bucks. They thought air quality had improved generally and was below maximum figures. They are doing some studies at schools. A member from Living Streets made contact with them. Funding has been allocated to have air quality monitors at Amersham Hill and also at some schools, one being Millbrooke school.

**8. AOB**

- Leaflets can be put into the library to advertise our group.
- There is a role for someone to follow up on new contacts gained through the website.
- A member will contact the group admin member for possible access to the google group admin.
- Water Quality - volunteers test the water and the water in the Wye near Bowerdean was good.
- Any activities we run can be circulated to members' other groups to involve more people.
- September meeting - in person. A member to book the room at The Friends Meeting House.

**9. Next meeting** - 2nd August on Zoom.