

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 7.30pm

at The Friends Meeting House, 25 London Road, High Wycombe. HP11 1BJ

Present: 8

Apologies: 1

1. Finance

£850 in the bank. No outgoings in March. Feb outgoings - £43.90 for Emma Reynolds meeting room hire + £15 room hire for WFoE December meeting.

2. Ecotips will be:

Active Travel

For an ecotip this April, consider reconnecting with nature and reducing your carbon footprint by incorporating more active travel into your daily routine, such as walking or cycling

Spring seed sowing.

Spring is here, so get sowing. Now is a good time to sow some flower seeds for pollinators, eg Nigella, Calendula, cornflowers. Also vegetable seeds. See gardening tips for April from the RHS

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/april>

3. Social media

There have been 2 inputs from the group for the FB page this month. The New GCSE Nature is on our FB page.

	Posts	Comments	Reactions	Most Viewed	Least Viewed
Feb	49	12	68	Relaunch of Community & Climate Cafe Wycombe Environments list of local events	Least viewed - Greenpeace petition to stop Deep Sea Mining before it starts
March	40	10	68	Lindengate Charity and BlackPoplar Trees Refresh Store Sewing Course	What areas do you want to protect in Hazlemere (and high Wycombe) Grow a Butterfly Garden BBWT - free ecology walks

- There was discussion about objectives of social media, i.e. do we need to think about targeting messages on social media to recruit more members?
- Should the website have an invitation for people to actually do something, i.e. put Pann Mill and Frogfest on the WFoE website and invite people to attend or add activities for them to help with? In which case we need activities.
- Important for people to have a way of getting to know the group.
- People have enquired through the website but don't return.
- Events - Pann Mill, Frogfest, etc. on Facebook page. Community and Climate cafe..

4. Events coming up

Speaker Event

- A member has been researching the idea of an event in the autumn based on air quality and mental health, loss of biodiversity and climate anxiety/Climate Justice. Progress so far:
 - Prof Kham Bui of Oxf Uni is willing to take part - his research is on Air Quality and Mental Health
 - Baroness Jenny Jones (Greens) is willing to cover Climate change, biodiversity
 - A member is looking for someone to cover Climate Anxiety, especially its effect on the young)/Climate Justice
 - The meeting attendees very much appreciated the work the member has done on this.
 - WFoE members agreed to help put a speaker event together.
 - It was decided to ask a member to enquire if Jenny Jones will be available in mid October on a WFoE meeting day (Wednesday) for a 'talk'. Ask Emma Reynolds to attend perhaps.
 - Venue - possibly John Hampden when a date is agreed, or maybe West Wycombe school hall or Millbrook School (£20/hr). Schools may be a good option depending on capacity - they seem to be cheaper. BNU seems too expensive (£350 for a whole day including stage, projector, microphones). The Arts Centre seems very booked up and could be too small £20/h. A member enquired at John Hampden School - they are booked up to about 6 weeks in advance.
 - WFoE members will share the workload. Maybe offer the speaker 4 dates in October.
 - Publicity - A member offered to make up a poster and he has experience of running such an event (Lord Deben talk last June)
 - Free tickets through Eventbrite.

Pann Mill on Sunday 11th May

A member to arrange a rota.

Two members have a "Guess the ...game". - numbers in a bowl and the first correct answer gets the box?????? A member to consider this and look into other attractions.

The Big lunch on June 7-8th - annual get together for communities. More details on Friends of the Earth website.

Food Waste - Bucks Adult learning Cooking on a Budget classes. They will try to highlight the topic more in their classes. These classes, by and large, are an outreach to South Asian residents.

One Can Trust runs Wednesday Cookery Classes from The Hilltop Centre - largely for service users. Jo from One Can says that the Chef discusses food waste as it is viewed as an important topic.

Marlow Energy event at Great Marlow School on 5th April. 10am-5pm. A member has put this on the Facebook page.

Community and Climate cafe every month last Thursday of the month at The Patch (The old library), 7.30pm.

5. Meeting with Emma Reynolds - next steps ?

- Two members are continuing their research.
- A member will email the group to ask for further info on the topic.

6. Film screening/other ideas for events ?

Film event

- It was agreed to ask a member to share the shortlist of films.
- A member saw the film 'Earth' at Somerset House.
- 'Grow together' is thinking of hosting a film so perhaps co-host with WFoE?
- A film event is a possibility in the summer. Discuss at next WFoE meeting.

Other ideas

- A member knows someone who could speak about heat pumps, solar panels, electric cars etc. At some point we could have an event to include such people who could talk about environmental solutions.

7. Do we want to apply for Asda Funding?

A member asked the Asda funding department about funding. Their next funding window opens in June. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

8. Windy Way Project - ongoing. Progress is being made.

9. WEP/WEC activities -

Frogfest - end May - it was agreed that WFoE will support where possible.

10. AOB

- A member said that the Facebook page has 300 followers.
- A member is keen to do workshops for primary, maybe secondary pupils. Perhaps link in with events such as Roman days with schools, drawing children into doing something environmental and getting them to commit to an action to begin a habit, e.g. making costumes for World Book Day rather than buying a new costume every time. Two members agreed to help.
- A member brought spare seed and plants for swapping.
- Chinnor and Thame FOE is showing the 'Wilding' film on Friday 16th May, 7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start, finishing around 9.30pm, at Chinnor Village Hall. OX39 4PQ.