

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of **Annual General Meeting** held on
Wednesday 4th June 2025 at 7.30pm at the Friends Meeting House

Present: 7

Apologies: 7

1. Minutes of the last AGM were approved, proposed and seconded.

2. Annual Report

Membership of the group continued at a similar level to previous years, with 21 paid up members. This is an increase of one from last year. Attendance at meetings is typically about half of the membership. A member attended a Carbon Literacy training event.

Group meetings - the trend set during COVID restrictions, we continued to have monthly 'zoom' meetings with quarterly meetings in person, including a well attended Christmas social event at FMH.

Social Media - Thanks to sterling work by the social media administrator, there are about 40 to 50 Facebook posts a month (not all generated by us) , there are generally in excess of ten comments, and 50 – 100 reactions each month. Followers have increased from 290 to 308. . Thank you also to the website administrator for doing occasional posts on X (formally Twitter) and keeping the website up to date. We have 123 followers on X.

Last year, I noted in my report that as a group we are not very good at campaigning. However, in 2024 we decided to focus on the general election. On 16th Jan 2025, five of us had a very encouraging meeting with the MP for Wycombe, Emma Reynolds. We plan to have a follow up meeting with her during the summer or autumn, to suit her diary. Prior to that in November a member organised a day at Tesco Loudwater, where we spoke to shoppers about the environment and encouraged them to ask their MP to support the Climate and Nature Bill.

Events - We continued to be successful with events - which tend to be our main way of interacting with the public. We had stalls at Pann Mill in May and September. This year we did not have a table at the 'Green Village Event' at Marlow Carnival. We had a stall at Frogfest in May. Engagement with the public was poor, but we handed out about 160 leaflets with suggestions for how people can consider the environment in the way they live their lives and how they vote.

In June some members joined the Restore Nature Now march in London. Pann Mill continues to be the best attended local event in which we participate.

Collaboration with other groups - Wildflower Seeds/bulbs for pollinators - a WEC initiative which we advertised and widely distributed. There was an article in a local village magazine about the initiative and about Friends of the Earth.

Throughout the autumn, together with members of WEC and other local groups, a few WFoE members attended meetings to develop a project to raise environmental awareness to residents in Wycombe. Wycombe Community Board funding was confirmed in March 2025. The Pride of Place project will be run through 2025 and into spring 2026.

On 12th January members attended the Steve Morton Memorial Walk, together with members from many other local environmental groups.

Finally on 5th April, the coordinator participated in the Energy Efficient Homes event in Marlow and other members attended.

3. Accounts and Finance Report for year ended 5th April 2025

We started the year with a positive balance of £ 780.84 and ended with a positive balance of £850.44.

This year we received subscriptions from 21 members and these form our main source of income. In addition a few members have made donations by contributing to campaigning costs or other expenses. These have been recorded as donations received, amounting to £42.00 and offset by recording the expenses individually.

Expenditure was £50 for campaigning costs, which were mostly to do with a meeting with Emma Reynolds at the beginning of the year. The annual website charges amount to £39. The only other expense is room hire for our occasional meetings at Friends Meeting House, which amount to £101.80 Taking part at Pann Mill usually brings us a few extra pounds through sale of plants which also cover the cost of taking a stand at this event.

4. Election of Officers

Coordinator - proposed and seconded

Treasurer - proposed and seconded

With no other nominations, the following posts were filled with the current post-holders.:

Webmaster -

Secretary -

Facebook Administrator

Twitter (X) (It was thought we need to discuss further whether to continue with X at next meeting)

All post-holders were thanked for their work in their roles.

5. Any necessary actions arising from above - none.

A business meeting followed the AGM.

1. Finance - covered above

2. Ecotip - Do Nothing

It's always good to keep things in balance, but doing nothing or slowing down can be beneficial to our planet, our health and our finances.

- 1. Eco benefits: reduced consumption (less buying and driving), lower energy use (less electricity/technology), less waste/ more re-use (mindful frugality, more 'space' for wildlife e.g. No Mow May and untidy garden corners).*
 - 2. Health benefits: supports mental clarity and emotional regulation, fosters a mindful outlook, consolidates memory, and improves creativity and problem solving. Doing nothing can also re-align our mental perspective or value system and allow the body to rebalance and carry out internal physical repairs.*
 - 3. Financial benefits (doing nothing will either cost you nothing, or even save you some money).*
- Some philosophers would agree:*
- "Doing nothing is better than being busy doing nothing." (Lao Tzu)*
- "All of humanity's problems stem from man's inability to sit quietly in a room alone." (Blaise Pascal)*

3. Social media

67 posts, 4 comments and 96 reactions

Most viewed - Active Travel by Carbon Copy

Least Viewed - Wildfire warnings in Peak District - Guardian article

4. Events coming up

- Bike Week 2025, an annual celebration of cycling, will take place from June 9th to 15th, according to Cycling UK. It's an opportunity for individuals, families, and businesses to participate in cycling activities, promote active travel, and enjoy the benefits of riding a bike.
- Sunday 6th July 10am -1pm Pride of Place Climate Fest in Chiltern Shopping centre.

5. Speaker event - 15th October, 7-9pm.

- Professor Kam Bhui is booked provisionally. (Talk on air quality and the effect it has on mental as well as physical health). It was agreed for this to be confirmed.
- There was discussion about other speakers but no decision was made.
- It was decided that we could possibly invite stalls from like minded groups to have flyers to advertise themselves and give people positive things to do.
- Trinity United Reform Church might be a good venue as it is central, a good space and with a carpark next door. A member will enquire further and will also enquire about The Hub at the Union Baptist church. Another member will chase John Hampden school for a reply.
- A meeting soon between will be arranged to discuss this further.

6. Film screening

Grow Together is organising the film '6 inches of Soil' in summer or autumn on regenerative farming which WFoE can attend and promote. It was thought that the speaker event was enough for WFoE members to cope with this year.

7. Pride of Place - links up climate organisations to help and bolster each other and be more effective in getting the climate message out. The WFoE speaker event will fit into Pride of Place activities.

8. Meeting with Emma Reynolds and Climate and Nature Bill

- Climate and Nature bill revamp is in July.
- Email Emma to encourage her to support this bill.
- Invite Emma to the 15th October speaker event.
- A member to research and send a template letter for people to send to MPs on social media and for the website.

9. AOB - none

10. The next meeting will be a zoom meeting on Wednesday 2nd July 2025.