

Wycombe Friends of the Earth

Minutes of Zoom on Wednesday 7th August 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: 9

Apologies: 2

1. Finance

£820 in the bank. Membership received from 4 people. A few people still have membership outstanding.

2. Ecotip

All our emails, messages, gaming or photo storage use energy and go through data storage centres which require lots of electricity and cooling.

An article from The Guardian states the following: "A new study commissioned by energy company OVO reckons Brits send more than 64m unnecessary emails every day, and that if every adult in the UK sent one fewer email a day we would save more than 16,433 tonnes of carbon a year – equivalent to 81,152 flights to Madrid or taking 3,334 diesel cars off the road."

"In the grand scheme of things, the impact of email is not the biggest carbon problem humanity faces, but it is an easy one to tackle. Berners-Lee acknowledges that thinking about email is a good way into conversations about 'the benefits of cutting every kind of junk out of our lives'.

There are a number of things that you can do that not only keep email volumes to a minimum, but are also beneficial to tackle the stress and anxiety that comes from email overload:

- Only subscribe to news services that you want*
- Unsubscribe from mailing lists that are no longer relevant to you*
- Delete unwanted emails and photos*
- Ensure the mailing lists you use are up to date*
- Write concisely and keep messages as brief as possible*
- Only message those who need the information; don't copy people in simply to cover your own back*

These simple and easy tactics could be good for you, as well as for the planet.

3. Social media

30 posts, 20 comments, 53 reactions

> Most viewed - MP Watch full page spread on Steve Baker had a huge number of views; second was the Chiltern Rangers walk along the River Wye and associated discussion re chalk streams.

> Least viewed - Send a postcard to your MP to inform them of concerns about your local environment (this action is being highlighted by National FoE)

> Ivan monitors website pages and WFoE Facebook page which is reasonably lively.

4. Events

> September 8th - Pann Mill. A member to organise rota and update display board.

> October 12th - joint meeting of the MP with other environmental groups. FOE has produced a helpful agenda for the MP meeting. A member will contact HQ for more information, find out when MP has a date and time to meet and then email the information to the group.

5. Gomms Valley Development - A decision on this is still awaited.

6. Mycelium Map

WFOE has been invited by a local group to be added to this. The Mycelium Map was set up to put environmental groups in contact with each other. Purpose unknown but the idea is good for groups to come together to encourage the public to tell the government that they are concerned and that the government should consider the climate crisis in decision making. A member will find out more.

7. Future of WFOE

> Role of coordinator

Richard identified 4 areas of the coordinators role

1. Richard is prepared to be coordinator in name but needs to reduce his workload.
2. A member offered to check the emails entering through the website, maybe weekly.
3. Being the arbiter on making decisions. Members responsible for an area can make decisions on that area. The rest can be fed back to the group for a consensus.
4. Coordinate with other groups re meetings and activities and perhaps doing things jointly (e.g. meeting the MP). A member will send two members the contact details for other organisations to look into this.

> Frequency of meetings

It was agreed that to meet less than once a month would result in a loss of momentum. Perhaps some meetings could be 'sharing of ideas' meetings. The next meeting will be an in-person meeting.

8. AOB

> FOE is encouraging people to send postcards to their MP encouraging climate action re pollution. A member will send this information to the group.

> A member would be interested in arranging a meeting with Joy Morrissey and asked if anyone would like to join her. Most people on the call, however, live in the constituency of Emma Reynolds, the Wycombe MP, and those interested would visit Emma Reynolds. One other member expressed interest in joining a meeting with Joy Morrissey.

10. The next meeting will be an in-person meeting on Wednesday 4th September.