Alnwick Area Friends of the Earth

Minutes of

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 1 March 2023

This AGM follows the procedures set out in our constitution. To view the constitution, go to https://www.alnwickfoe.org.uk/about.html

1. Welcome from the Chair, introduction, and apologies.

Present: Brycchan (chair), Terry, Lesley, Elliot, Lisa, Mike, Eve (minute taking), Sue, Peter, Martin, Jan, Gillian, Chris.
Apologies: Cathy

2. Minutes of the 2022 Meeting and any matters arising

Minutes of last year's (2022) meeting – Accepted

3. Annual reports from the committee

3.1. **Letter writing campaign** to Anne Marie Trevelyan (AMT) and others – Terry

3.2. **Fuel Poverty Group** – Terry

Earlier last year we had a group session to identify what we would concentrate on.

Fuel poverty was identified as one of our key points to work on.

We had 3 stalls in Alnwick, Rothbury and Morpeth with petitions on Bill of Rights. We also produces handouts, leaflets etc.

We are now member of the Warm Home FoE campaign. And liaising with Calvin, reginal officer, to work further on this. Calvin will be coming along to next month's meeting.

3.3. Divestment campaign. Contacted by the Berwick group to support them on this matter.

3.4. **Tree planting** – Terry and Peter

At Ellingham School, + Alnwick High school (next session on 12/03/2023 from 10am)

About 10 sessions planting saplings at the Sports Pitches.

Biggest issue is to find the land where we are allowed to plant that will benefit the community.

3.5. **Young People's Project** and Climate Club at the Duchess's High schools

Elka, Climate Psychology Alliance – talking about possibility of organizing workshop.

3.6. **What a Wonderful World Festival** last year in June- FoE was a partnership organization. It was very successful last year and will be repeated again this year (date TBC). Focus on the arts, with talks, films, singers, stalls etc.

3.7. Email re. Amble – local issues to be followed. Gilly will circulate and we will follow up.

3.8. **Networking Meeting** in October 2022 – Mike

About 25 people came. Useful to share between groups. Check last minutes and CC details. Would like to organize or encourage another one.

Whatsapp has a community tool that might be useful to use. + might be sub community groups. Contact Hazel to find out more.

Following this networking event, people have met in separate context (North Northumberland Orchard events– 25 March next Orchard event – ask Pete)

3.9. **Membership**: 114 people on the mailing list so far. Could do with more/new active members. Could be discussed further in the Com's Group.

3.10. **Council Climate Change Steering Group**- Brycchan takes part – CC last month's minutes point.

Note that they have produced their report on the future of farming (available from website).

3.11. **Communications sub group.**

Facebook Page 208 followers.

Twitter feed 119 followers.

+ Link on our Website (notice board); We are now more and more visible.

There are guidelines for people who would like to contribute to the Website.

3.12. **Stalls**. Have had a few and are trying to be more interactive, creative and imaginative.

3.13. **Maintaining 'The Oaks' Flower Bed**. This is being maintained to a high standard for wildlife and people by Sue and Lisa.

4. Receive and approve the **annual accounts** of the group

Sue reported on the Accounts. Very little movement in the overall accounts during the last financial year. Most of our income comes from donations and we have been kindly supported this year by donations from Hipsburn Primary School and individual AAFoE. Expenditure is mainly on room hire for meetings or stall hire for events. We hold no petty cash. Last statement £1,092.71 (as of 17/02/2023)

Accounts were approved by the group and will be circulated to wider mailing list.

5. Election of committee members

(a) Committee

Chris and Lesley are happy to be added to the list of committee members. As well as everybody else present today. = committee for the next 12 months

+ Cathy,

+ check with Jean and Liz.

(b) National FoE liaison member - Terry Smith.

Add to the agenda a monthly update on National FoE and take it up next month with Calvin. Carry over until meeting next month.

(c) Treasurer - Sue Patience

Brycchan will update the website with up to date

6. Consider any proposals for changes to the constitution

None

7. Any other business of an annual nature

none

8. **Presentation**: Cllr Martin Swinbank will give an update on the Northumberland County Council Climate Action Plan.

Town Council has its own Neighbourhood Plan and is due a review. Members of this group are involved in reviewing the plan. Climate change and Biodiversity have been highlighted as needing updating and focused upon as part of the plan's review;

Martin explained the procedure followed to become a town councillor

NCC AP- in 2019 NCC declared Climate Emergency. Said that by 2025 they would reduce carbon emission of county council by 50%
+ net zero carbon by 2030 across the whole of Northumberland.

Climate change team formed within County Council. Made a Climate action plan
Already reached the 50% target.

Martin gave examples of projects done by the team and Council. These include:

- Net Zero.
- Climate Champion Scheme. Activists and networking opportunity
- Trainings ex. Carbon literacy training etc.
- Peat Management, Great Northumberland forest project.
- Heat network project

Haven't yet declared a biodiversity crisis

Environment Bill may have an impact on what the Council will do in the near future, but waiting for actual regulations (?)

9. Date of next year's AGM.

6 March 2024

+ **Next AAFoE meeting**: 5 April 7pm at Alnwick Youth Hostel, Chair: Lisa

Minute taker: Jan