Alnwick Area
Friends of the Earth

# Annual General Meeting Wednesday 6 March 2024

# Minutes

1. Welcome from the Chair, introduction, and apologies.
   Brycchan reminded us of our Constitution, and that this meeting would be fairly brief, and followed by our usual monthly meeting.

   Present: Brycchan Carey, Sue Patience, Terry Smith, Elizabeth Bland, Lisa Bellamy, Mike Powell, Cathy Crowther, Jan Maddison, Elliot Smith, Chris Leggate, Gilly Maude, Peter Edge

   Apologies: Jean Lovie, Eve Reverchon, Martin Swinbank

2. Minutes of the 2023 Meeting and any matters arising. Agreed as a true record.

   No matters arising

3. Annual reports from the committee:

   Gilly: 110 members on membership list, slightly fewer than last year; worked with Terry on Divest campaign

   Jan: stall at Rothbury, display at library, and new leaflet

   Mike: helped to get the Northumberland Green Hub going ( Sept 2023, following FoE led meeting in October 2022) . Mike and five others are on Steering Group, NGH WhatsApp group has 9 subgroups.

   Lisa: organised nest box event in March, care of Oaks Roundabout garden, What a Wonderful World committee

   Peter: Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan - trying to help develop environmental input; community tree planting; joined COP28 demo in Newcastle (with several from AAFoE).

   Sue: What a Wonderful World - organised the textile squares exhibition ( Quakers, plus locally produced squares from the Women's Workshop and others)

   Terry : see written report (attached as an appendix) ; suggested that all write written reports next year

Brycchan: looking after website, giving talks, Tweeting; asked everyone to update on current campaigns for website.

4. Receive and approve the annual accounts of the group

Sue circulated the financial report, which showed a balance of £764.11, after an opening balance of £1092.71 . Total income was £609.60 and total expenditure was £938.20

The reduction in funds is due to increased activity in the past year.

Brycchan's suggestion that fundraising should become a regular item on the monthly agenda was accepted.

The accounts were received and approved by all. (Attached in an Appendix)

Terry proposed a vote of thanks to Sue, as outgoing Treasurer, which was endorsed by all.

5. Election of committee members

(a) National FoE EWNI liaison member

Role: keeping in contact with National and Regional Offices, attending webinars and feeding back to the group.

Terry was prepared to continue in post, but will be stepping down in a year. His preference was to have someone doing it with him ( hopefully with a view to taking it on next year). No one came forward at this stage. Terry Smith was duly re-elected.

(b) Treasurer.

Sue Patience standing down.

Gillan Maude and Brycchan Carey both volunteered to be considered. Peter Edge proposed Gillian Maude, and this was supported by all, so she was duly elected.

Agreed that the new signatories should be Gillian Maude, Brycchan Carey, Terry Smith and Cathy Crowther, any two to sign. Gilly to contact the Co-operative Bank to set the change of signatures in motion.

The post of Primary Contact is not formally listed.

Primary Contact : Gilly standing down. Chris Leggate volunteered, was proposed by Lisa and supported by all.

(c) Committee. Brycchan Carey, Sue Patience, Terry Smith, Elizabeth Bland, Lisa Bellamy, Mike Powell, Cathy Crowther, Jan Maddison, Elliot Smith, Chris Leggate, Gilly Maude, Peter Edge, Martin Swinbank

and Eve Reverchon all agreed to be Committee members. Brycchan agreed to approach Liz Anderson to find out if she wants to continue on the Committee (Confirmed by email 12/3/24).

6. Consider any proposals for changes to the constitution

   Brycchan to look at clarifying roles for election and bring it to a monthly meeting, in order to bring to next year's AGM.

7. Any other business of an annual nature None
8. Date of next year's AGM. Wednesday 5 March 2025 7.00pm
9. Meeting closed at 7.55pm

**Appendix 1**

**Report to AAFoE AGM March 6th 2024 from Terry Smith**

**Facebook**

There has been a gradual increase in people signed up to the page (currently 234) with evidence that news items, articles, announcements etc being looked at and some commented on. A quick assessment indicates that approximately 1200 items are pasted on the site monthly. I usually spend an hour per day going through the news and some academic articles to pull out articles etc of significance and interest. Cathy Crowther helps with this. With the approval of members I am prepared to moderate this site for another year.

**Divestment- Tyne & Wear Pension Fund**

Following the excellent and informative public meeting (but poorly attended) organised by the group, Gilly and I met to draft and send a comprehensive letter to the leader of NCC. I also wrote a letter on the issue to the Gazette which was published. The response to the letter from Cllr Sanderson was general but quite positive. A copy of our letter went to the leader of the Labour group. Together with an elected Green colleague Martin S in his role as councillor put forward a resolution on this matter which was voted against by the Labour group and the Tory's largely abstained. The February meeting agreed for a few of us to meet with a view to writing to the leader of the Labour group to challenge his apparent views on this issue. A verbal report will be given to the next FoE meeting. I think we feel that we must keep the pressure up.

**Work with young people.**

During term time I attend every week the DCHS Climate Club. I help to run this with Rosie Bush. During this year we have focussed on plastic pollution, the sea (temperature rise, plastic pollution, over fishing, sea level rise, sewage and field run off pollution etc) We did a beach clean (7 bags collected) and followed this up with a letter to the fishermen's organisation about fishing equipment pollution. One of our members made a short film about our beach clean. We have also held sessions on the Arctic and Antarctic, 'Warm Homes & Full Tummys', Trees and on Air. We have had visitors and speakers including our county councillors and a representative from

Surfers Against Sewage. We've recently be awarded a sum of money from the school's Boost fund to make a short film and plans are quite advanced to do this. The Tipping Point game which I devised with the help of Rosie has been successfully tried out with the young people. I hope AAFoE will find opportunities to use this game as a tool to educate and develop discussion. (It's relevant to adults too) The DCHS purchased a large Jenga for this activity. The Climate Club has I think about 20 to 25 members with about 15 attending on a regular basis.

For the second year over five days I gave a short illustrated talk to most of the 1600 pupils at the DCHS. The theme of this year was of 6 major environmental and nature threats in Northumberland. The presentation included some ideas about what young people could do and guidance on how students might deal with the anxiety and worry about this. As yet there are no firm plans to continue these talks which I think is a shame. If anyone is interested I am happy to support them and liaise with the school.

I also gave an hour long talk to about 10, 6th form students undertaking the climate science course.

**Liaison with national and regional office**

I have liaised with FoE regional workers and in particular Calvin. This link has been intermittent and not particularly effective. I do think it is important though. I will stand down from this role at our next AGM in 2025.

Terry Smith - Feb 2024

**Appendix 2 Accounts**

**ALNWICK AREA FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ACCOUNTS – March 2023 – March 2024**

| Date | Item | Income | Expenditure | Balance | B/S |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21.03.23 | Chq. No: 500113 – AYH Room hire Feb and A&DNP refresh. | | £50.00 | **£1,042.71** | **B/S 54** |
| 05.04 23 | Chq. No: 500114 – Expenses for Bird Box Building Workshop | | £110.45 | **£932.26** | |
| 11.04.23 | Chq. No: 500115 – Expenses for catering (BBB Workshop) | | £15.48 | **£916.78** | |
| 12.04.23 | Chq. No: 500116 – AYH Room hire March'23 | | £25.00 | **£891.78** | **B/S 55** |
| 24.04.23 | Chq. No: 500118 – Donation reimbursed to T.Smith for postage. | | £15.00 | **£876.78** | |
| 24.04.23 | FoE Grant towards Bird Box Building Workshop | £210.00 | | **£1,086.78** | |

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| 27.04.23 | Donations for room hire April. | £26.00 | | **£1,112.78** | |
| 11.05.23 | Donations for room hire May. | £20.60 | | **£1,133.38** | **B/S 56** |
| 12.06.23 | Chq. No. 500117 - AYH Room hire April 23 | | £25.00 | **£1,108.38** | **B/S 57** |
| 26.06.23 | Donations for room hire June. | £28.00 | | **£1,136.38** | |
| 04.07.23 | Donations for tree sale (WaWW Fest.) | £31.50 | | **£1,167.88** | |
| 08.08.23 | Chq. No. 500120 - Donation to Whitehaven Enquiry | | £50.00 | **£1,117.88** | |
| 09.08.23 | Chq. No: 500119 - AYH Room hire May 23 | | £25.00 | **£1,092.88** | |
| 09.08.23 | Chq. No: 500121 - AYH Room hire June 23 | | £25.00 | **£1,067.88** | |
| 16.08.23 | Chq. No: 500122 – CBS World (Posters for Divestment Talk) | | £37.92 | **£1,029.96** | |
| 16.08.23 | Chq. No. 500123 - AYH Room hire July 23 | | £25.00 | **£1,004.96** | **B/S 58** |
| 29.08.23 | Donations for room hire August 23 | £28.50 | | **£1,033.46** | |
| 01.09.23 | Chq. No. 500124 - Brycchan Carey – Web Hosting. | | £63.60 | **£969.86** | |
| 12.09.23 | Chq. No. 500125 - CBS World – Printing of new leaflet. | | £99.75 | **£870.11** | |
| 15.09.23 | Money raised by Tombola at Rothbury Green Event. (£10.00 for CO) | £100.00 | | **£970.11** | **B/S 59** |
| 18.10.23 | Chq. No. 500126 – Olwyn Expenses for Divestment event | | £20.00 | **£950.11** | |
| 09.10.23 | Chq. No. 500127 – AYH room hire Sept.23 | | £25.00 | **£925.11** | **B/S 60** |
| 02.11.23 | Donations from Green Hub meeting | £35.50 | | **£960.61** | |
| 20.11.23 | Donations for room hire Sept & Oct. | £45.00 | | **£1,005.61** | |
| 04.12.23 | Chq.No: 500129 – St James's room hire (Green Hub meeting) | | £61.00 | **£944.61** | |

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| 04.12.23 | Chq No: 500130– St James's room hire (Divestment event) | | £75.00 | **£869.61** | |
| 07.12.23 | Chq. No.500131 – Donation to Whitehaven Appeal | | £90.00 | **£779.61** | |
| 07.12.23 | Chq. No 500132 – AYH Room hire Oct & Nov. | | £50.00 | **£729.61** | **B/S 61** |
| 09.01.24 | Donations for room hire Dec. 23 | £25.00 | | **£754.61** | |
| 22.01.24 | Donations for room hire Jan. 24 | £17.50 | | **£772.11** | |
| 12.02.24 | AYH Room hire Dec. 23 & Jan, 24 (BACS payment) | | £50.00 | **£722.11** | |
| 22.02.24 | Donations for Feb. Meeting | £42.00 | | **£764.11** | **B/S 62** |

**Treasurer's Report for AAFoE AGM Meeting 06.04.24**

- There has been more activity in the accounts this year mainly due to an increase in events held by AAFoE.
- Room hire for events has been the main expenditure and donations to the Whitehaven enquiry although the 2nd donation of £90.00 was raised by having a Tombola stall at the Rothbury Green Event.
- We also had a new leaflet printed this year.