

MINUTES OF FRACK FREE CLEVELAND MEETING.

VENUE: ALEXANDRA VAULTS, SALTBURN-BY-THE SEA.

DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2014.

Those present:

Maggie,  
Frank,  
Beth,  
Annette,  
Will,  
Pete,  
Neil,  
Bradley,  
Jo Mack.  
Spana.

- 1) Apologies were sent by Jay.
- 2) Group members were asked what they had done since last meeting. Maggie had organized Frack off venues for Hartlepool and Guisborough. Pete had booked the Arc in Stockton and had thought it was going to be expensive but was pleased to discover it was in fact free. He stated it is a great venue for outreach as it is central and is a rendezvous point for folk, it also has a busy cafe. Pete had also been to see 'How to Occupy an Oil Rig' Neil and Annette had also been to see it. It was very good and brought out important issues connected with protest. After the show the actors had also shown an interest in our Fracking leaflets.  
Neil said he had built the website for Frack Free Cleveland and explained that all posters for the Frack Off event were downloadable. Annette said she had been putting up posters in Guisborough and had a mixed response in regard to Extreme Energy issues. Some were obtuse in allowing posters to be displayed on their business premises or extremely supportive.
- 3) Neil explained that we are waiting for the next move from Third Energy at Kirby Misperton. The contractors are Viking..
- 5) As Neil and Annette are going away the group were asked to keep an eye on Coal Board licences re U.C.G. In Hartlepool. Neil explained the licences were out to tender at the moment but was not sure when they closed. It was decided it was for the whole group to keep looking at the Coal Board website thus keeping a close eye on future developments as and when they happen. It is important the group is aware of any granted licences as soon as they become viable. Neil will put links to the Coal Board site on the group website so it can be easily found.
- 6) Facebook was discussed as a viable means of communication . It was acknowledged as a valuable tool but to be used with discretion as it was not secure. Rise up lists were more secure as their function is specifically for use by Activists. Neil is to set up Rise up lists which will act as an effective and safe discussion forum.

7) Networking before the Frack Off Hartlepool event was discussed. Beth suggested small leaflets to be given out to the public before the event. Last minute leafleting could be most worthwhile.

Maggie said that as it was Easter holidays there would be more students and teachers around to network. Teenagers could be targeted as these should be taught about extreme energy issues.

8) Pete said that Jay was to complete the Constitution which was in the process of a draft copy. This was to be presented to the Bank as a Group constitution is required to complete the application for membership. This would be finalised at a later date through group discussion. Annette asked that consensus should be included in the constitution.

9) Beth described the day of training when Seeds for Change came and gave an entertaining yet informative day of N.V.D.A training.

It was decided that a Media day of training would be preferable on the next Seeds of Change Training day. A summer of stalls and outreach would lead to press interest and the group would benefit greatly with training to deal with the media. Annette had been in contact with SOC and it had been left at an Autumn date. However, Will thought this was too late and could they come asap instead. Annette said she would try and organize this.

10) Maggie and Frank told the group about a film they had watched called 'Dirty Lying Bastards' which was about Media manipulation with multi National Companies. She said we need this to play them at their own game.

Annette told the group about the piece on B.B.C.Look North with Harry Bradbury , he was allowed to speak for 3 minutes extolling the virtues of U.C.G. all the jobs it would provide and bountiful cheap energy etc and conversely how Green Councillor Shirley Ford was allowed 30 seconds. This is what the group has to be able to do to get as many poignant points over in a short as time as possible. We will not be given as much air time as oil companies.

11) Jo Mack explained to the group that Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April in Middlesbrough was to go ahead and the Frack Off team were to be there. It is to take place between 12pm and 2pm. Jo is to advertise this on his radio station.

12) Spana said he is to do a Presentation on 7<sup>th</sup> April at Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Club. It will be 20 minutes and will be mostly on U.C.G.

Spana will do outreach in Hartlepool.

13) Jo Mack is to set up a Middlesbrough group with Spana. It was decided that this group should hold the same constitution as Frack free Cleveland. However, it should hold its own bank account.

14) Various forms of outreach were discussed and there were many reasons why hard copy leafleting was more effective than using social networking sites. As social media is rife within our society it has become less effective as a networking tool. Also, mail shots were effective as both leaflets and snail mail were less used in this day and age and therefore held more of a novelty factor which in turn increased their overall impact.

Spana is to be reimbursed the cost of the gazebo. £74.99p. Leaflets from NGOs but not political parties can be displayed.

15) Will explained that it was important to offer solutions to Extreme Energy issues rather than a negative message.

Neil replied that he had made a leaflet on TEQS, Divestment from Fossil fuels.

The info is available on the solutions page of the website.

Sustainability was to be promoted, solar installations on huge scales were also a solution. Leave it in the ground message. To have a complete moratorium on fossil fuel extraction is the only way to stop climate change and prevent us from going over 2 degrees celsius. Methane is 27 times more dangerous than Carbon Dioxide.

16) Jo Mack suggested sharing resources within the anti fracking movement. Neil said that this could be readdressed when the group had more resources to share. Jo said the group would have to have lock ups to store resources.

17) Maggie suggested Neil and Annette to purchase pasting table as they had access to the fund.

AOB

Pete said he will offer his support for the Frack Off Hartlepool venue. Pete will also continue with the website maintenance in Neils absence.

Jo said he was going to network the Environmental group in the University.

Beth said she was going to take some home baking along to the Stockton @ The Arc Frack Off evening.

Annette said she would bake flapjack, take some organic juice and some recycled cups to Sunnyfield House Guisborough for Frack Off evening. Maggie; Annette and Neil to be hosts at this venue.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

Minutes were taken by Annette Hudspeth.

Amendments to be addressed at next meeting .This will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014.