

Frack Free Cleveland Minutes.

12th May 2016. 7.30pm Saltburn House, Saltburn-By -The-Sea.

Those present: Maggie, Spana, Neil and Annette.

Welcome.

Apologies from Frank.

Minutes verified as correct and no matters arising.

Neil had researched the website figures as requested by Spana. Below are the up to date figures.

January 2016 6 visits per day 18 pages viewed per day.

February 2016 7 visits per day 22 pages viewed per day. A peak in February.

March 2016 46 pages viewed by 2 people.

April 2016 4 visits per day.

Neil is to investigate the reason for the peak in February.

Feedback from Scarborough Spa. Spana Neil and Annette had attended and all agreed it had been a tremendous success. A lie in at both doorways and a replica bamboo rig had been erected. The latter was moved to an allotment after the event and runner beans were planted around it. BBC Look North had been present.

Maggie, Neil and Annette spoke about the York demo. It was agreed by all it had been a success and although walking backwards had been a challenge it was good because it made everyone walk slowly which would facilitate the elderly and disabled. The only draw back was there was very little or even no press present and it had not been advertised enough prior to the demonstration. The speakers were well informed and the weather was glorious.

Spana, Neil and Annette had attended the Miners Institute which were holding a debate on the future of fossil fuels in our present climate. It was hosted by The Durham Energy Institute. Annette has put a synopsis on the FFC Facebook page and FFC website. Spana wondered if Paul Younger had 'thrown the towel in' on extreme energy extraction. A discussion followed and it was mooted that if investment in CCS funding in research was reintroduced by a change of government then would he return to UCG. At the moment there was two CSS plants in Norway and both were non viable.

Summer Outreach. It was decided by the group that stalls should be held at Lush in Middlesbrough. Leafleting at Seaton Carew Promenade.

Maggie is to make enquiries as to the dates of Hartlepool Fair/ Summer Festival as this would be an ideal place for outreach.

Ralph is busking and getting the UCG message out. Spana if possible will be attending Durham Miners gala. There was a debate on the most appropriate venue for outreach. Hartlepool or Seaton Carew. It was decided that maybe both should be tried and tested. There may be connections made whilst leafleting and networking may grow from either locations. Neil and Annette agreed to leaflet a week on Saturday 21st May 2016.

There was a discussion on the difference between Five Quarter and Cluff Resources. The former had been transparent at the beginning before they had realized opposition, however, Cluff had always been veiled in non transparency and remained so.

Annette informed the group that there was to be an EU Referendum Debate at Danby Village Hall

either 10th June or 17th June 2016. Spana informed the group there was to a Referendum Debate in Hexham also.

The future of FFC meetings was discussed in the absence of Neil and Annette. There would be no formal meetings from August to February. If there was an urgent matter to discuss then Spana would inform Stockton and the meeting could be moved to Saltburn for local FFC attendees.

There had been a Review meeting held in Northallerton 12th May, this had not been publicised. A short discussion ensued about the outcome of the Fracking meeting on 20th May 2016 to decide Fracking in Ryedale. There was confusion over whether the government could overrule the County Council decision. Spana said the Government had been using the phrase 'Matter of State Security' in their rhetoric which could mean they would have the power to overrule local Authority decisions.

Annette mooted a change of Bank Account to Triodos. They are changing their criteria and FFC may be able to bank with them. However, this will not begin until 2017 when Annette will look into it. Frank and Maggie agreed to taking over the role of Treasurer until Neil and Annette return. Annette will hand over the books in July.

Neil told the group that he asked the Coal Board about the future of Five Quarter Licences. He had heard from Freedom of Information Act and they had informed him that he would hear something in 20 days time.

Events.

30th May at Druridge bay. 1 until 3pm Bill Oddie is to be present. It is to be held on the beach opposite the Drift cafe North of Cresswell.

It was agreed this was to be a great outreach opportunity.

Next Meeting 9th June 2016.