

Frack free Cleveland Minutes.

15th January 2015.

Hop and Grapes Saltburn-by-the Sea

7pm.

Those present:

Maggie

Frank

Spana

Neil

Annette

Joe Mac

Apologies: Jay sent her apologies.

1 Redcar and Cleveland petition. So far there was 673 signatures. It was decided that the date for the handing in of the petition would be April. Pre-election. The group is to invite candidates ie M.Ps and potential Parliamentary candidates. The group is to ask local businesses to partake also. A Press Release is to be issued 1 week before the event. Joe volunteered to write Press Release.

Joe is to advertise the event on local radio. Outreach tasks to be allotted to various members at next meeting.

It was noted that the Green Party were overtaking the Lib Dems and UKIP in membership numbers. In one day 2,000 members had joined. Fracking Industries are going out of business because of cheap oil. B.P. are pulling out of the North Sea and Shell are withdrawing from the Artic drilling.

2. Spana spoke about his time at Crawberry Hill near Beverley. They took a van loaded with wood and bales of hay. Also a car to take passengers. There were speakers, entertainers and live music. A very friendly atmosphere and around 150 people attending. It was very cold but this did not dampen the spirit of the demo. They took £70 worth of food to donate as this was on the wish list. There was only one minor incident concerning the police but on the whole the Police kept a low profile. Joe spoke about mini cams to be worn at demos to record Police behaviour, a conversation followed on live stream videoing. It was discussed that generally on Solidarity days the general behaviour of the Police was low key. The Police usually waited until all visitors had returned home before they began heavy handed tactics on a Camp.

3. Neil gave an account of the trip to bar Loco Newcastle to a UCG meeting. Spana attended also. Neil said it was very interesting. There were 15 people all from different backgrounds. Greenpeace, Green Party, Friends of The Earth. It was decided the group was to be apolitical. Its purpose was to co-ordinate actions of the various groups in the North East. A name for the group was to be decided and on line

participation to be encouraged. The group was to hold its meetings on a monthly basis. A different venue was to be sought.

4. On February 12th the date of FFC next meeting is to be held at O Gradys in Redcar, upstairs. 7pm. This is to be experimental depending on the response. It was mooted that we change venues to UCG hotspots if necessary. It is wheelchair accessible as it has a lift.

5. Frack Stops Here are holding a demonstration in Preston to coincide with a Fracking decision being decided in Preston Town Hall. Joe said he could arrange a 7 seater mini bus if there were enough interested parties. Maggie suggested that the group is to approach our Friends of the earth neighbouring groups to network and partake in co-operative ventures.

Joe said that there was a 1% response to door to door leafletting.

6. The call out to join Dean Axford in a meeting with Tom Blenkinsop was discussed. A group of concerned people against extreme energy were to meet the M.P. 16.01.15 at 3 pm. Maggie and Frank described their meeting with Tom where they had spoken to him twice. Once on TTIPS and the other time on UCG. His response had been to be supportive of extreme energy extraction on the basis that it offered employment to the region.

7. National Reclaim The Power was discussed. 7-8th February. There was a lot of interest in this weekend in Manchester. The group were interested in attending to arrange their journey to COP21 in Paris. Group members who were going to be present would report back to the next FFC meeting and would be representatives of the group.

A.O.B.

It was mentioned that Third Energy are contracting Haliburton to carry out work.

Also, Seaham group had noticed a drilling boat off the Seaham shores. On further investigation the boat was no longer present.

Spana is to kayak from Alnwick to Hartlepool during the warmer months. The details will be finalised nearer the date. It would be a great outreach opportunity for media and leafletting.

Annette asked for receipts if expenses had been occurred during the last month.

Jo mooted an idea for fund raising by hosting a music gig. This is to be discussed further at the next meeting with more details from Joe.

Meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

Minutes taken by Annette Hudspeth.