



**UNIVERSITY OF YORK STUDENTS' UNION**

**MINUTES of the ENVIRONMENT & ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**held on WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY at 16:00 in DERWENT JCR**

**Present**

Joe Thwaites (JT) – Environment & Ethics Officer (co-chair)  
John Nicholls (JN) – Environment & Ethics Officer (co-chair)  
Helen Fry (HF) – Derwent Eco Rep  
Lisa Mill (LM) – Derwent Eco Rep  
Shaun Morton (SM) – Langwith Eco Rep  
Alex Reid (AR) – Goodricke Eco Rep  
Sam Hunt (SH) – Halifax Eco Rep  
Amy Pargeter (AP) – James Eco Rep  
Samuel Baines (SB) – James Eco Rep  
Chris Venables (CV) – Vanbrugh Rep  
James Stafford (JS) – York University Conservation Volunteers (YUCV)  
Alex Green (AG) – People and Planet  
Ella-Grace Kirton (EK) – Ordinary Member (minute taker)  
Kate Evans (KE) – Ordinary Member  
Jason Rose (JS) – Ordinary Member

**In attendance**

Athene Dilke (AD)  
Jade Flahive-Gilbert (JFG) – Oxfam  
David Clarke (DC) – Oxfam  
Rebecca Leigh (RL)  
Rhiannon Lewis (RhL) – Speak  
David Butler (DB) – Speak  
Amritha Peiris (APe)  
Sophie McLoughlin (SMc)  
Patrick Jones (PJ)  
Bryn French (BF)  
Joe Rankin (JRa) – Derwent Chair  
Samuel Houlders (SHo)  
Malachi Chadwick (MC)

**1. Apologies**

- There were no apologies

**2. Introductions**

Everyone present introduced themselves to this special meeting of the committee, whether they were Eco Reps, society representatives or attenders. Those involved in societies spoke briefly about what they do and when they meet. We heard:

- People and Planet – Tuesdays at 6.15pm in L/037
- Speak – talk to RhL or DB for more information
- Oxfam – meetings on Fridays, talk to JFG or DC for more information
- Read International – Tuesdays at 5.30pm in Derwent bar, talk to CV for more information
- YUCV – trips on Wednesdays and Saturdays, talk to JS for more information

JT asked societies to email [environment@yusu.org](mailto:environment@yusu.org) with the times of their meetings so that they can be put on the E&E calendar on the website, if they are not there already. Everyone can check [www.yusu.org/environment](http://www.yusu.org/environment) for this information.

### **3. Minutes and Matters Arising (MAMA)**

- James College Eco Reps were elected and were present! Alcuin still requires an Eco Rep, and those in Alcuin were encouraged to approach their JCRC to see if they could be co-opted into the position.
- JT proposed that the minutes were a fair and accurate representation of the last meeting:  
FOR: 6  
AGAINST: 0  
ABSTENTIONS: 3  
**PASSED**

[A BREAK WAS TAKEN TO EAT SOME OF THE DELICIOUS RANGE OF CAKES AND CHOCOLATE AVAILABLE!]

### **4. Green Week events**

- JT reminded everyone about the events (some of which had happened earlier in the week and had been successful). He told everyone to check the Facebook group 'YUSU Green Week 2009' or the website for further details. Everyone was encouraged to invite friends to the remaining events, especially the question time debate on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>.
- JT reminded the committee of 'Jungle D' happening on Saturday of Week 8. Extra volunteers were asked for to steward in place of LM and HF (and possibly JT and JN). SM and AR volunteered. JR said he would let JT and JN know if he could as soon as possible.
- JT reminded the committee about 'Carbon Detox', the climate change stand up comedy show featuring George Marshall. This event will happen at the York Theatre Royal on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March (week 8) at 7.30pm. Anyone who would like to go can buy tickets from him for £5.

### **5. Fairtrade Fortnight**

- JN told the committee about the Fairtrade workshop on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March (week 8) at 6.30pm being run by Lena Jeha
- JT reminded the committee about the Fairtrade market in town on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March (week 8). Anyone who could attend was encouraged to go.

### **6. Recycling**

- JR told the committee that he had noticed several bins that were missing across campus, and a lack of sufficient provision in certain places. He suggested finding out whether more bins could be put in place and more posters around campus to inform people of where they are.
- JN said that he and JT will look into this and pass it on to the new officers, elected at the end of week 9. They will also find out about the recycling done at the Courtyard from Matt Burton (YUSU Services and Finance Officer).
- The importance of a publicity drive on recycling in week 1 of the Autumn term was emphasised.

### **7. Goodmag**

- EK and KE reiterated that Goodmag is a magazine on environmental and ethical issues previously produced by an independent group of students but now done through Environment and Ethics committee.
- The deadline for article submissions is Friday week 8, and articles are to be sent to [yorkgoodmag@gmail.com](mailto:yorkgoodmag@gmail.com). Distribution of the magazine will be in week 10, and details of this will be decided at a later date.

- Those who were interested in putting the magazine together were encouraged to contact EK and KE. A meeting will be arranged for those interested to do this, and mailing out through the Environment and Ethics mailing list.

#### **8. Ethical Food UGM motion**

- JT mentioned that he and JN had discussed the drafted motion with the Union Chief Executive. He had explained that he supported the motion in principle, but that it currently would be detrimental to bind the Courtyard by the constraints it laid out.
- JT suggested that a more simple motion could be put forward for the gradual introduction of food rules, that would mandate the Environment and Ethics officers to maintain a list, in conjunction with the bar manager and relevant full-time officers. He suggested that this would be more financially viable and more democratic. It was decided that this motion be postponed until week 4 of next term.
- An immediate problem raised by JR was the labelling of food at the Courtyard, whether it is vegetarian, contains nuts etc. A motion mandating such labelling has been put forward to the UGM in week 8.

#### **9. Bags in Your:Shop**

- JT explained that he had been in contact with Matt Burton (YUSU Services and Finance officer) who had asked for the committee's opinion on the future of bags in Your:Shop. Possibilities were the phasing out of the bags, a small charge to be applied to them, a recycling facility for old bags to be available, and/or the provision of more canvas bags, in order to cut down on waste.
- After some discussion, the consensus supported the idea of phasing out the bags, with a charge on them in the interim period. The committee also supported the idea of a recycling facility for reuse as well.
- JT and JN will feedback this proposal and report on its status at the next meeting.

#### **10. Any Other Business (AOB)**

- MC explained that he is involved in the promotion of a new film about climate change entitled '**The Age of Stupid**'. The national premiere of the film is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, and a trial screening will happen at the Vue York cinema at Clifton Moor. The screening will be preceded by a live Q&A with the director and lead actor Pete Postlethwaite broadcast from Leicester Square in London. He has been exploring the possibility of a YUSU minibus taking students to the cinema, which is the other side of York. He passed around paper which people who were interested could write their email address on for more information. Places on the minibus are limited and so those interested were encouraged to respond to MC's email. JT and JN will also send an email to the mailing list regarding this. It was proposed that the cost of the minibus hire (around £50) be paid by this committee:

FOR: 10

AGAINST: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 1

**PASSED**

- JR brought up the issue of YUSU's bank account and **ethical banking**. This refers to the motion passed in February last year, where YUSU was mandated to contact RBS (as a NatWest account holder, owned by RBS) to express concern about their large-scale investments in oil and gas extraction projects. The motion mandated the union to switch funds should no action be seen on the part of RBS within 12 months. He suggested it would be advisable to push YUSU to switch to the Co-operative bank, which has a strict ethical policy, rather than an alternative such as HSBC. The practical issues with switching to the Co-operative were raised, but it was seen as preferable if physically possible. JT and JN will refer this information to Matt Burton.

**11. Announcements**

- JN said that the ethical investment demonstration will be happening this Friday 27<sup>th</sup>. It will assemble at Central Hall at 12 noon. All are encouraged to attend if possible and bring friends.
- JFG reminded everyone about the Women's Committee and Oxfam clothes swap, happening on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March (week 8) in Goodricke Dining Hall between 10am and 3pm. Those who would like to bring clothes to swap in advance in exchange for tokens can do so at Vanbrugh stalls on Tuesday and Wednesday of week 8, between 12 and 2pm.

**12. Date of the next meeting**

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March (week 9) at 4pm in V/122.

**The chair closed the meeting at 17:37**