

Swanton Morley Parish Council

Climate Emergency Working Group

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th March 2020

At 7.30pm in Swanton Morley Village Hall

Attended by: Roger Atterwill (cllr), Maddi Heinrich, Geoffrey Curran (cllr), Stephen Westbury (cllr), Linda Barham, Barbara Hyde, Christine Taylor

Apologies from: Ian Cawdron (cllr), Gerry Palmer, Carol Dack, Aimee Thrower, Kelly Pickard

1. Group Name

The group present agreed that the logo designed by MH would suffice. It was suggested that the acronym could be expanded to explain what CASM stands for – Climate Action for Swanton Morley. MH agreed to produce a version of the logo to include the full name of the group.

2. Household Recycling

The majority of those members of the group who wish to visit the recycling plant are able to attend the session offered on 13th May 2020. It was therefore agreed that MH would contact Steve James at Breckland Council to arrange the visit for that date and to ascertain how many people could attend. RA reported that Breckland Council have been considering the merits of collecting food waste from residents as is done by many other councils and as is being suggested by central Government. They are currently opposed to this idea due to cost and rurality and prefer an education drive on household composting and reducing food waste in general. RA also reported that Breckland Council are committed to climate action and are currently formulating a plan. RA is hopeful that by April or May he should know what action they will be taking and will report back to the group.

3. Planning

GC produced a statement to be submitted against all relevant planning applications made in Swanton Morley:

Climate Action for Swanton Morley (CASM) has an expectation that all developers will adhere to all statutory building regulations and local government policies. Whenever a new development is considered, CASM will require that buildings are energy efficient, have renewable energy production technologies and charging points for electric vehicles.

Developers should consider the long-term consequences of their developments with regard to the reduction of the carbon footprint. Trees, shrubs or hedges should be planted wherever possible to encourage wildlife and capture carbon dioxide.

Materials used in construction should be sustainable wherever possible had have a low environmental impact when manufactured.

Developments under consideration should demonstrate how the requirements of CASM are to be met.

All present agreed that this statement is suitable to be submitted on behalf of the group. MH will submit the comment on relevant future planning applications from the admin@swantonmorley.org email address.

4. Speaker

SW confirmed that Dr Hayley Pinto would be coming to speak to the group and wider audience at Swanton Morley Village Hall (Hilton Room) on Tuesday, 24th March from 7.30pm. It was agreed that her travelling costs would be covered by Swanton Morley Parish Council. MH will advertise the talk via social media and posters throughout the village.

5. Transport

MH reported that she had been in correspondence with Konnectbus and First buses. Steve Royal from Konnect bus has offered to come and speak to CASM with a view to working with the group to encourage the use of public transport and discuss improvements that could be made to the service provided to residents of Swanton Morley. BH suggested that as a group we should promote the use of the bus more as people may not be aware that they can use it simply to travel from one end of the village to the other. MH will contact Steve to arrange a meeting. GC raised the possibility of taxi sharing however it was decided that the group would first focus on bus travel with a view to perhaps revisiting this option at a later date. MH advised that a list of local shops is a work in progress and will report back next month.

6. Wildlife/Environment

LB reported that she had, with the help of a resident, measured the area at Meadowview designated for a wildflower meadow. The full extent of the area measures 110' x 10'. It was suggested that the width could be reduced to approximately 6'. LB has ascertained from Emorsgate that they can supply enough wildflower seed to cover the size of a tennis court (78' x 27') for £40. LB will order the seeds. RA will contact Bernie Marsham to ask him to scarify the ground ready for planting and will report back to the Parish Council office if Bernie is unable to carry out the work so that the council contractors can be instructed instead. LB is currently also liaising with Lisa Syer from Little Swans nursery regarding the planting of bee bombs by the nursery children. MH agreed to ascertain the cost of purchasing some bee friendly plants to fill the existing flower beds at the village hall. RA showed the group a video about mini forests and recommended the area next to the village green at the end of Harkers Lane. He will research the idea further. There followed a discussion about where other trees could be planted and how native trees could be identified.

7. Other Matters

MH reported that following a discussion with the headteacher at Swanton Morley Primary School, it has been agreed that there will be a collection point at the village hall or used ink cartridges. One of the Parish Council office staff would then periodically take the full box of cartridges over to the school to add to their collection from which they benefit, thus reducing footfall to the school itself, avoiding safeguarding issues.

8. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 15th April 2020 at 7.30pm, at Swanton Morley village hall.