

Swanton Morley Parish Council

Climate Action Working Group

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 11 May 2022

7.30pm in Swanton Morley Village Hall – Bar Area

Attended by: Geoffrey Curran (Cllr), Jane Fabisz, Alasdair Monteith, Chris Taylor, Lynda Baham Gerry Palmer, Ian Cawdron, Emma Raines and Linda Turner.

1 Review of previous meetings minutes

All approved

2. Review of CASM event and wishing tree ideas

Geoffrey thanked everyone for helping and supporting the event. It was noted that there had not been many people attend the event. Northgate School had boosted numbers whilst also giving a very good presentation.

Geoffrey to review the labels from the tree – themes included food and plant-based diets, education on recycling and litter picking.

3. Feedback from Parish Council Meeting

At the recent meeting councillors had been elected or re-elected and hence Geoffrey was re-elected and remains as Chair of the Climate Action Group.

4. Updates regarding Breckland climate action proposals / officers

The Breckland representative/s were unable to make this meeting so will be asked to the next one.

It was proposed that we ask the representative about recycling and how it works ie what can you / can't you recycle etc and whether or not the group could visit the recycling centre.

It was agreed that as a group we could find out more about recycling and pass information on to residents of Swanton Morley and investigate whether we can increase the opportunities for recycling at the Village Hall, ie container for electrical appliances.

5. Tree and Hedge Survey

The survey forms have been sent out by the Parish Clerk. These will help to keep a note of any trees planted in the future as well. Wire fencing and mulching will be used in the future instead of plastic collars

It was noted that the Platinum Jubilee Tree (Copper Beech) was looking a little under the weather and may have died. Trees and grass struggle at Davidson Park due to lack of top soil.

6. Update on Tree Nursery Project

The Parish Council have had written permission from James Keith to use the land identified in enclosed map as a Tree Nursery.

Alasdair will contact Emma Stone from NNC to get application for a grant. It was agreed that the grant application will come from the Parish Council and Alasdair will send the completed application to Jane / Kelly to send off.

The grant should make it possible to buy fencing, tools and equipment for the tree nursery project.

A water butt on the Village Hall was discussed and a possible source of water for the project.

Future events can be planned to involve local families to get involved.

A grant is available every year to continue the tree project.

7. Any other long term projects

1) It was noted that nitrates have been found in the River Wensum and developments have been put on hold.

Farmers are testing the water to find the source of pollution, Linda T suggested that she will speak to her contact at the Wendling Beck Project to see if she can find out more.

Initial reports may suggest that sewage is being dumped if the capacity with the new houses has been reached.

2) Ian also proposed that as a group CASM could campaign about the development of Robertson Barracks and the implications on the local area depending on what they decide to do. Whilst it might be ambitious the group could lobby against housing developments particularly if the developers are not environmentally conscious or plans do not add anything to the infrastructure.

MOD are unlikely to remove the Radar Unit – may stop housing development

250 houses already there they could refurbish and make them greener / solar farm on airfield / grow more trees

We could campaign green industries to see what ideas they may have

We would need an expert in the law around planning and development and could be expensive. Parish Council would have to back any proposals.

We would need to work with Hoe and Worthing as they back on to site.

It was noted that Breckland Council have recently put a call out to all local landowners to acquire land for potential housing development. The Parish Council would likely object to that given the amount of housing that has already been approved recently.

Ian suggested a brainstorming session at the next meeting to build a plan and will organise.

We may have to look to experts to advise first.

3) Emma asked if the planter at Greengate was being looked after as it looked a little unkept / could CASM adopt as a group. Recent update: the planter is now being looked after.

8. Date of next meeting 15th June 2022 – 7.30pm