

Swanton Morley Parish Council

Climate Emergency Working Group

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 15th January 2020

At 7.30pm in Swanton Morley Village

Attended by: Roger Atterwill (cllr), Maddi Heinrich, Geoffrey Curran (cllr), Stephen Westbury (cllr), Aimee Thrower, Linda Barham, Gerry Palmer

Apologies from: Ian Cawdron (cllr), Kelly Pickard (Clerk)

1. Agree on a group name

MH explained that she is unable to create social media accounts without a name. The group agreed that it is important to have an identity but also that it should be carefully considered as once decided, it will be used going forward to represent the group. Suggestions so far include SMAC (Swanton Morley Action on Climate) and The 2030 Group (making reference to the target date for carbon neutrality). AT suggested that a competition is run to design a logo. This item will be revisited at the next meeting with a view to making a decision then.

2. Household Recycling

RA circulated information and videos supplied to him by Breckland District Council about household recycling. The group agreed that the information was informative and further agreed that it should be shared to the wider community. RA reported that Steve James, Community and Environmental Services Manager at Breckland Council might be able to arrange a site visit to Norfolk's recycling facility. All of the group showed an interest in this. RA to investigate further.

3. Planning

RA confirmed that all planning applications within Swanton Morley will now be scrutinised against the Neighbourhood plan which was recently adopted. This includes policies covering energy generation, green space and biodiversity.

4. Speaker

SW has made further enquires about a speaker who may be able to come to Swanton Morley to talk about climate issues. Her name is Dr Hayley Pinto and she is based nr Aylsham. SW will contact her to see if she is prepared to visit and find out what sort of presentation she might be able to give.

5. Transport

SW has discovered a website with a CO2 calculator which demonstrates CO2 values associated with different types of transport. SW reported the merits of public transport in many circumstances and proposed that the Parish Council could promote the current bus service that runs from the village by sharing timetables

and bus stop locations. MH will contact the bus companies for information to disseminate. SW also suggested that enquiries could be made with local taxi companies regarding group transport to and from Dereham to connect with the later buses to Norwich. Based on the information supplied by SW, the group discussed the benefit (environmentally friendly) of internet shopping for groceries but agreed that shopping local should be promoted in the first instance. MH will compile a list of local farm shops including distances from the village and what is sold and will enquire whether delivery is offered by any of them.

6. Health

GC advised the group that there is not a lot of information available concerning the effects of climate change on health. GC relayed information from a paper taken from The Lancet magazine which did contain some relevant research about health benefits to be gleaned from a clean environment and from activities such as cycling and walking. LB informed the group about 'green prescriptions' which is where the healthcare professional prescribes activities such as walking groups instead of medication. SW suggested that promoting the health and environmental benefits of eating a more plant-based diet could be supported by arranging a cooking demonstration using produce supplied locally. This could be part of a bigger event held at the village hall.

7. Wildlife/Conservation

MH reported that an application has been submitted to the Woodland Trust for free trees and that several sites in the village have been earmarked for planting. The group agreed to review and confirm planting areas at the next meeting.

LB relayed information she had obtained from The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Kew Gardens and Friends of the Earth to the group. All three focus on 3 areas: verges and hedgerows, private gardens and community gardens and areas. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust supply good information about what to plant and when to encourage bees and other wildlife. Kew Gardens have a scheme called 'Grow Wild' offering free seeds for community groups for seeding meadows and similar spaces. LB agreed to make further enquiries about registering with Grow Wild. The group agreed to decide on specific locations for planting at the next meeting. RA has spoken to the Little Swans Nursery who are keen to get involved with planting. GC suggested that the area of garden outside of the nursery could be used. LB also informed the group about a scheme running in Suffolk where local people adopt a stretch of verge/hedgerow to look after. Areas for a similar scheme may be identified at the next meeting. SW agreed to provide a map for the group to work from.

SW suggested that the parish council might purchase some fruit trees to plant on communal land. The area adjacent to the village green was suggested as a possible site for a village orchard and will be confirmed or disregarded at the next meeting. Other areas suggested at present for tree planting include Burgh Common, Mill Common, Old Village Hall car park, Churchyard and Village Hall.

SW suggested the possibility of running a workshop at the village hall to build bee houses. MH suggested a similar workshop to make bee bombs to be distributed to every household in the village (along with the Mardler in the Spring). LB suggested that there was somebody on Radio Norfolk who might be able to offer advice or even talk about such projects and agreed to find out more.

8. Fabric/Fashion

LB made two suggestions regarding fabric and fast fashion: organising a clothes swap and/or a make and mend group. She advised the group that from research she has found it is more about changing people's mentality and encouraging them to buy less in the first place. GC informed the group what happens to clothes received by charity shops that are not re-saleable, in that they are sent for ragging.

9. Recycling

Recycling facilities at the village hall were discussed. RA suggested informed the group that the village hall receives money for glass deposited in the recycling banks sited there. MH agreed to promote this in the next edition of the Mardler. AT offered to research further recycling possibilities including crisp packets, animal food pouches, batteries etc. and will report back.

10. Funding and Training

RA proposed that the parish council set a budget for the climate emergency work and advised that this will be considered next week at the council's budget meeting.

RA informed the group that he had been invited to the Cleaner Greener Conference on 30th April 2020 and that Breckland Council would probably fund his place. MH agreed to circulate the invitation so that other members of the group could decide whether it might be useful to send another member to attend. Concerns were raised about whether the conference is relevant to parish administration.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Climate Emergency working group was agreed to be held on Wednesday, 12th February at 7.30pm in the bar area of the Village Hall.