

Swanton Morley Parish Council

Climate Emergency Working Group

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th February 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, Carol Dack

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

1. Agree on a group name

Several names were suggested, however, the group unanimously agreed on a suggestion made by GC – Climate Action for Swanton Morley (CASM), with a tagline ‘making Swanton Morley sustainable’. MH will contact Trudi Jordan with regards to creating a logo and report back at the next meeting.

2. Household Recycling

RA has made further enquiries with Steve James at Breckland Council about a visit to the recycling plant for all or some of the group. He will let RA know what is possible.

LB asked about holding a recycling event at the Village Hall. Everyone agreed that this would be a good idea, to be held as part of a wider event covering climate and environmental issues. This idea will be pursued once the group have had the opportunity to learn more from Breckland about recycling.

SW suggested hiring a skip for a day to allow for a waste amnesty for items not easily recyclable. Initially this was a well-received idea but after discussion, the group agreed that there were too many implications to proceed.

3. Planning

MH proposed that the group could comment on planning applications as a separate entity to the Parish Council to enforce the need for consideration to be given to climate and the environment. RA stated that reference would need to be made to the Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan. SW suggested that there is also an emotive side to planning. The group agreed that a standard statement would alert people to existence of the group and hopefully begin to make developers think more positively about these issues. It was also felt that any statement could include an offer to speak directly to the group. All agreed to defer this item to allow members of the group to consider wording for such a statement. Ideas to be submitted prior to the next meeting for all to consider.

4. Speaker

SW has booked a speaker – Dr Hayley Pinto, for 7.30pm on 24th March 2020. The talk will be held in the Hilton Room at the Village Hall and will be open to anybody who would like to attend. SW will confirm the time with the speaker and report

back to MH who will then advertise the talk via social media and the noticeboards. SW has agreed on behalf of the group to cover her travel expenses.

5. Transport

The group are keen to find out if either of the local bus companies have any initiatives for sustainability. MH agreed to make contact with them to investigate further. The issue was again raised as to why the last bus must return to Dereham empty when it is making the journey in any case. MH agreed to ask this question of Konnect Bus and to check whether there is an agreement between the No. 4 and the No. 8 for one to wait for the other.

RA reported that the government had just promised investment of £5bn to improve public transport and cycle ways.

MH reported that she has not yet completed the list of local farm shops and travel distances but will do so before the next meeting.

6. Health

AT raised the issue of exhaust fumes from idling cars at the school. Ideas such as a walking bus and lift share were made. GC suggested that walking and cycling to school should be encouraged far more. RA advised that the school used to have a School Travel Plan. GC agreed to raise this at the next governors' meeting and report back.

7. Wildlife/Conservation

MH reported that the application for free trees from the Woodland Trust had been successful and that the Parish Council would be receiving 200+ trees in the autumn.

RA will ask Capita if they have an up to date map of the village that the group could use to identify areas for planting. In the meantime, an area at Davidson Park has already been earmarked for wildflower planting. LB agreed to survey the area and assess what is needed to complete the project there. LB has identified a local seed company – Emorsgate who will supply wildflower seeds specific to area and soil type. LB also reported that all of the free seeds offered by Grow Wild have now been allocated and we are therefore not able to benefit from this scheme.

Another area for immediate attention was identified at the Village Hall. LB agreed to work with the nursery to plant Bee Bombs there. MH will contact Little Swans to put them in touch with LB. LB will assess the cost involved and report back to the group.

RA reported that he had met with the Highways Engineer for Swanton Morley and spoken to him about verges and what funding is available for the Parish Council to potentially take over responsibility for them throughout the village. RA also reported on an idea from a resident in Beetley about the possibility of cutting verges at a 45 degree angle to allow for biodiversity to thrive, this suggestion has also been made to the Highways Engineer. RA will report back any response received from NCC.

MH reported that the village hall has recently signed up to NCC's balloon and lantern charter and has adopted a policy, forbidding the release of these items from the village hall. This will now be included in the terms and conditions of hire of the hall and posters will be displayed around the building.

8. Fabric/Fashion

GC reported that 60% of clothes can be recycled, so even if people don't feel they can stop buying new clothes altogether more awareness is needed about what happens to clothes that are donated to charity shops and clothes banks. It was agreed that this sort of information will be shared once a Facebook Page and or website is developed.

9. Recycling

AT reported that most of the schemes being offered by companies such as Tetracycle are now oversubscribed and therefore no longer available. The result is that to recycle from the village hall would incur large cost. The group agreed that for the time being at least, the answer is to educate people about where to recycle items that can't be placed in household recycling bins. GP informed the group that Morrisons, for example, will take plastic bags such as bread wrappers and that the school will take ink cartridges. MH agreed to contact the school to see if they mind people dropping off their used cartridges there. AT will compile a list of where various items can be taken and report back.

10. Funding and Training

RA reported that the parish council had agreed to set aside the sum of £2000 for climate action in the 2020/21 budget.

RA informed the group that Breckland Council are preparing a Climate Strategy which should provide this group with more information and direction and may offer an opportunity for the group to learn more. Part of this strategy will be the installation of electric car charging points.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Climate Emergency working group was agreed to be held on Wednesday, 11th March at 7.30pm in the bar area of the Village Hall.