



SWARLAND AND NEWTON ACTION ON CLIMATE

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Tuesday June 18thth at 6.00pm

Swarland Village Club, Coast View

MINUTES

1. Present – Liz, Carolyn, Greg, Hazel, Elaine, Jan

2. Apologies – Lesley, Dave F, Kathryn, Maureen, Jenny, Jonathon, Helen, Suzanne, Bryan, Barry, Louise.

3. Project Updates

3.1 Bus Service – Carolyn provided the update. An item publicising the service went in the latest edition of the Column. Carolyn has been in touch with County Councillor Wendy Pattinson whose ward covers Ellingham, the other ‘half’ of our service. Wendy has met with NCC transport people who are pleased with the use of the Saturday service. If we can continue to get people to use it, we are in a strong position to get an additional service. However, numbers have fallen off slightly but people are talking about the service and making friends on the bus.

Wendy knows of the issues SNAC has had with NEED and it appears that NCC are holding a meeting with NEED to discuss the service. The lack of a service to Stannington was previously raised by Lesley and Wendy will be talking to the Cllr for that area.

Carolyn said she was trying to get the May data for Swarland and Newton, keeping it simple i.e. number of journeys. Liz has drafted a flyer, and Carolyn has drafted a poster. Hopefully both will attract residents as well as holiday makers and younger people. Local schools to be contacted to publicise, plus posters at the Caravan Park, and bus stops. Jan to print 50 copies of the flyer with the timetable on the reverse.

Another press release is to be issued in conjunction with Wendy for the beginning of the school holidays. It was suggested that we get the May figures, check that Wendy has the figures for April & May and work with Wendy to discuss a weekday service with Chris at NCC.

Carolyn has obtained a copy of ‘Walks in Morpeth’ some accessed by bus and some by car. Liz has copy of ‘Walks for Felton’. These could form the basis for promoting ideas for using the bus service.

ACTIONS:

- Jan to print 50 copies of the flyer / poster
- Carolyn to liaise with NCC / Wendy re passenger data and weekday service

3.2 Hedgerows

The Hedgerow Walk took place on 2nd June with Judy, It was a good opportunity to see what she is creating on the farm, and the walk was attended by about 12 people. Judy is thinking about the next steps eg a survey at Shield Dyke. Liz will be talking to Judy about this.

Liz said that via the neighbourhood Plan currently being worked on in the Parish, they are looking at designating a number of areas as Local Green Spaces. The draft plan will be put out for consultation and we should look at opportunities to maximise the biodiversity and explore potential to join some of these up.

ACTION:

- Liz and Judy to discuss next steps re hedgerows.

3.3. Wildflower Meadow

The meadow area in Vyner Park seems to have recovered from the accidental part mow it received from NCC. Sara Frisby from the Wildlife Trust will be conducting the survey training on Wednesday 19th June. Training is 10.30 start at the meadow with approx 7 people attending. Andy Ferguson will be there from Vyner Park. Jan to take photos and send to Liz for use on Facebook and the website.

Sara is a grassland specialist and will be preparing a report on Vyner Park for comparison with one that was done about 9 years ago. Information could be used for interpretation boards on site.

ACTION:

- Jan to take photos of the event for future publicity.

3.4 Water Quality

Testing is ongoing. The next meeting of the Coquet Group is on 16th July at which the Constitution will be agreed.

3.5 Swarland Wood

The new(ish) forrester was to come to the SNAC November meeting but has changed jobs and is now working for The National Trust . He won't be able to do the planning for replanting. We now have a vacant slot for the meeting talk – possibly hedgerows??

ACTION:

- Liz / Carolyn to consider options for November.

4. Tree management in Vyner Park

Suzanne and Carolyn had a look at the trees that have been planted in Vyner Park over the last couple of years. Some may need a bit of attention especially the newly planted trees which are being swamped by the bigger weeds. Urgent trimming is needed around the young trees. One or two of the older trees need stakes repairing/tree guards removing. It was agreed we would get a few volunteers together

and ask if Suzanne could advise. Elaine suggested putting hessian circles around tree bases and cover in wood chippings. Need to pick a day and liaise via Facebook.

ACTION:

- Carolyn to liaise with Greg, with Vyner Park Charity being kept in the loop.

5. Swarland Show

Possible content for the SNAC display had been discussed at the previous meeting. . Agreed to set 16th July as the deadline to get the basis of the display in place. Will ask for volunteers for the day with a minimum of 2 in the morning, 2 in the afternoon but more would be better. Liz and Jan will bring the Show related materials they have to the July meeting. At the July meeting we will focus on what the stall is going to look like. Table and chairs have been booked.

ACTION:

- Liz to confirm displays with those involved.
- Liz / Jan to confirm what materials we already have for the stall
- Liz to make preparation for the Stall a key item on the July agenda.

6. SNAC finance

Liz and Jan had prepared the accounts to date for SNAC. SNAC acts as an arms length committee of the PC so is covered by the PC insurance and SNAC uses the PC bank account. Liz has been talking to David Francis (PC Chairman) about the process to follow to make sure financial decisions are recorded either in minutes or via an email trail, as neither she nor Carolyn are now Parish Councillors. The same trail is needed for activities so they are covered by Insurance.

SNAC received £300 for 2024/25 from the PC which will cover room hire, website and incidentals. SNAC has also received a grant from NCC including around £700 for wildflower training. Jan to confirm this has been received and add to the SNAC spreadsheet.

Room payments for September and November meeting don't seem to have been paid. Jan to check for receipts. Web costs can come out of planned expenditure 2023/24 and go in actual expenditure. Room bookings have been paid for until and including November.

ACTION:

- Jan to follow up on room hire payments and to make agreed updates to SNAC budget sheet

7. Northumberland Green Hub – for information

NGH was set up last September and is a network for individuals involved with climate and environmental issues. NGH now has around 85 members. Three or four events are held/year and the next one is on 20th July 2024. A monthly digest is produced and a number of special interest WhatsApp groups are operating. The NGH is run by 6 volunteers in a steering group. Currently trying to do more publicity and encourage more people to join.

Local climate groups are being asked to add a statement to their website saying that they are part of NGH and similarly NGH will publicise local groups. This was agreed.

ACTION:

- Liz to confirm that SNAC is happy to add a statement to the SNAC website.

8. Forthcoming Events – for information

June 19th SNAC Wildflower Meadow training 10 – 1.00pm
June 19th NWT Wildlife Group talk at Hauxley Nature Reserve
July 10th Screening of 'Wilding' at Alnwick Playhouse 7.00pm
July 20th Northumberland Green Hub Community Event 9.30 – 1.00pm
August 10th Felton Repair Café 11 – 3pm
August 31st Swarland Show 11 – 4pm
20th Sept – 6th October, Warkworth British Food Fortnight

9. Any other business – it was suggested that we could ask Sara Frisby if she would do the talk in Novevember.

10. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday July 16th 2024 at 6pm.

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