

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7PM
SWANTON MORLEY VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr R. Atterwill (Swanton Morley Parish Council) Chairman
Mr J. Venworth
Mr S Gauntlett
Mr B. Powter
Mr S. Vincent (Abzag Ltd– Neighbourhood Plan Consultant)
Mrs K Pickard (Clerk to Swanton Morley Parish Council)
Mr B. Cushion (Parishioner)
Mr G Curran (Parishioner)
Mr A Burrows (Parishioner)

1) To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr D Turner, Mr R Rodrigues, Mrs A Walker-Fraser, Mrs B O’Dowd, Mr R Beauchamp and Mr J Phillips, accepted by the Steering Group.

2) Minutes from 13th November 2024 and 15th January 2025

Mr Cushion requested an amendment to the minutes to include an alternative method of renewable energy for large buildings with solar panels to have marine turbines

Mr Venworth proposed that with the above amendment the minutes are approved seconded by Mr Powter and carried

3) Policy wording

The policy new and changes document was shared on the screen to include the suggested amendments from the January meeting for consideration.

New Policy:
Management of Community Infrastructure.

Mr Vincent reported that Mr Atterwill had assisted with the tool that is used for the calculation of commuted sum for streetlighting. There is also the Parish Council specification of streetlights available. Only issue is if technology goes out of date and there are any changes, this will need to be considered in the document.

To include a note to read ‘this may subsequently have been updated, please contact the Parish Council for most recent specification of streetlights.

All agreed

New policy:
Car Parking Provision & Electric Charging.

Mr Vincent reported that there isn’t a lot of change with this policy from the last meeting other than to add in the electric charging points to the suggested policy and following the discussion at the previous meeting it is now part of building control to provide an electric charging point.

Mr Vincent has also included a small change to the wording to read 'associated car parking spaces' this is makes it clear that they are associated spaces for which property they are intended for.

All agreed

New Policy:
Commercial Solar and Wind Generation

Mr Vincent has made the suggested amendments from the previous meeting.

A small amendment to the wording 'is not keen' was suggested by Mr Cushion.
Mr Curran suggested an amendment to the wording to read 'within the parish'.

Mr Cushion raised a question concerning the text paragraph that refers to the NPPF statement and if this needs to be included. Mr Atterwill responded that this raises the point that the Parish Council can expect other sites to come forward, these cannot be identified now but would have to be looked at positively when considering a planning application as it in National Policy.

Mr Cushion also referred one of the main paragraphs in the policy that currently reads 'Development of commercial 'green energy' production would be supported in the appropriate area, as shown on MAP A, provided the impact is' this could be changed from supported to considered?

Mr Vincent said that any applications would have to be considered as part of the process.

Mr Atterwill also referred to the Parish Council declaring a Climate emergency in 2019 to minimise the environmental impact.

Mr Curran asked if this is referred to in the document? Mr Vincent confirmed that this can be included.

Mr Atterwill thought that this should be 'supported subject to policy requirements.

Mr Atterwill also explained that if anyone comes forward with a planning application, from a National Policy perspective, what the policy is designed for is then to show where we would prefer it to be and what the policy considerations that we would like any developer to consider as part of the process.

Mr Curran asked which policy we are referring to, Mr Vincent confirmed that it would be our own policy.

Mr venworth explained that he feels Mr Cushion has concerns about the policy being included as could appear as though Swanton Morley are encouraging the development.

Mr Atterwill feels that Swanton Morley would be too far from the grid for such a development, but it would pay to have a policy to protect the village.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives legal standing.

Mr Atterwill referred to the map of protected views, Mr Cushion suggested that one of the areas from the south of Hoe Road North should not be included as it is one of the few off-road paths that there is and has environmental advantages.

Mr Atterwill responded that planning legislation does not have a right to a view.

Mr Cushion responded that the lane has been there for several years and has old trees.

Mr Vincent responded that this would lead to further questions on the development and the need for additional screening.

Mr Cushion has concerns with the piece of land being suggested in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr Vincent suggested that Mr Cushion can look further into the historic landscape of that area and respond to him directly.

Mr Burrows asked if there is an application to consider this area as landscape sensitive would that derail any applications to develop on it.

Mr Vincent responded yes.

Mr Burrows asked if it had to come from the Parish Council or could an individual complete the application, Mr Vincent responded that anyone could.

Mr Vincent also suggested that Mr Cushion can submit comments through the public consultation for consideration.

New policy agreed. Mr Cushion could not agree in principle.

New Policy:
Streetlights.

Mr Vincent went through the updates for the policy following the last meeting.

All agreed

Existing policy changes:

Policy 1 – Protecting the Identity of Swanton Morley – Updated paragraph (*as defined in Map 4 Swanton Morley Settlement Boundary*)

All agreed

Policy 7 - Local Green Space – additional sites have been included with accompanying maps (*Village Hall Playing Fields, Allotment site, Manns Lane, Football pitches Manns Lane, Swanton Morley Cricket Ground*)

Mr Cushion asked if the bowling green next to the church should be protected, Mr Atterwill responded that this is already a protected view.

All agreed

Mr Burrows raised a couple of things in ways that the Village can be improved, coming outside of a local level, this could involve a mast for the telecoms and phone signal.

Mr Atterwill responded that there is an existing policy (13) for Broadband and mobile communications. Mr Atterwill referred to the meeting with the DIO in 2024 where the large tower on the camp was discussed briefly, at the time Mr Atterwill suggested that this could be used with masts from the mobile phone companies.

Other than including the policy and supporting applications that would improve the service for the village, there is not a lot more that can be done.

Mr Venworth raised the issue of broadband on Woodgate.

Mr Atterwill said that having more development does put the village on the radar, being a growing village the infrastructure needs to be improved.

Mr Venworth asked if the Neighbourhood Plan could include something to improve the pumping station? Mr Atterwill responded no however any new development has to be considered with Anglian Water.

Mr Burrows asked referred to growing businesses and could the Neighbourhood Plan be supportive of small businesses within a development?

Mr Atterwill referred to policy 14 which supports planning applications that create employment opportunities.

This concluded the discussion on the changes and updated document.

Mr Atterwill asked if this was the document to be consulted on, Mr Vincent confirmed that this would now be put back into the original Neighbourhood Plan changes document.

The idea is to keep the documents separate at this time to be able to show what the suggested changes are through the 6 week consultation.

Mr Curran asked how the new policies would sit with the existing themes? Mr Vincent responded that these will be implemented where he suggests.

4) Next Stages

i) Regulation 14 consultation (6 weeks)

Mr Vincent provided an overview of the 6-week consultation process.

The Regulation 14 is part of the planning process that must take place as part of the review.

It gives any stakeholder or resident the opportunity to respond to the changes and updates document with any thoughts or suggestions.

It was agreed that the six-week consultation will run from Thursday 27th March until Friday 9th May 2025.

ii) Community Event to support Regulation 14 consultation

Mr Burrows suggested that the consultation could run on a day when there is existing footfall in the building or on the football pitches to maximise the response.

It was agreed that the public event open to everyone would run on Saturday 19th April 2025 at Swanton Morley Village Hall from 10am until 1pm.

Stakeholders will be asked to sign in, provide their contact information and put a dot on the map where they come from. They will then be given a response form to complete.

iii) Response review

The response review will take place after the 6-week consultation has concluded and will discuss the outcome of the event and consultation. There will be responses to consider from main stakeholder as well to include Norfolk County Council, Natural England, Breckland Council and Highways.

The propose will be to go through the responses and use any of the suggestions to make any changes.

Mr Burrows asked if any of the responses need to be validated?

Mr Vincent responded that these are for consideration and reached a valid conclusion. This must be documented as evidence.

5) Any other business

Mr Atterwill reported that he is having a meeting at Breckland Council in March to discuss the Local Plan and information relevant to the Village. He will report back to the Steering Group if there is anything that would need to be reported for the Neighbourhood Plan and any potential changes.

The next meeting will be focused on the Consultation and Public event.

It was discussed to have a separate email address for the Neighbourhood Plan review.
The Clerk will request a quotation for this.

6) Date of next meeting to be held on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7pm

All agreed

The meeting closed at 8.57pm

_____ (Chairman) _____ Date