

CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Saint Andrews Church, Main Street, Carlton at 1930 hrs
on Wednesday 14th March 2012

Present: S G Tupling (Chairman), J H Boston, R H Edmunds, J D Finch, W R Sharp, (Councillors),
C J Peat (Clerk).

1. Election of Chairman

The resignation of Cllr Bob Edmunds from the Chair was accepted with regret (p.1389/10 refers).
Cllr Stuart Tupling was **elected** Chairman, and thanked Cllr Edmunds for his work in this role.

2. Apologies for absence from Councillors

There were none.

3. Personal or prejudicial declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda

None were declared.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 8th February 2012

It was resolved that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Carlton Charity Land

It was resolved that this item be deferred.

b) Completion of new Carlton PC website

The new website had been examined by Councillors, and Mr Johns and the Clerk were congratulated on its appearance, structure and functionality. The Clerk reported that the total cost of setting up and operating the new website for the first two years would be £66.87, compared with £340.00 for the County Council's system. The ongoing annual cost would be £61.88 pa, compared with £170 pa for the County Council system.

It was resolved that an *ex gratia* payment of £50 be made to Mr Johns in appreciation of his work and close liaison in developing this important community resource.

6. Reports from members of other public authorities

a) Leicestershire County Council

Cllr I D Ould had submitted a written report. The Chief Constable had advised that the local speed enforcement policy was to issue tickets to any motorist exceeding the speed limit by 10% + 2 mph – ie 35mph in a 30 mph zone; 46mph in a 40 mph zone. There had been no progress on opening footpath S68 at Shackerstone Station. SWIP was considering the submission of a planning application for a village development on the Nailstone Colliery site, though there were serious doubts about financial viability because of ground contamination, the new infrastructure required, and the requirement to provide 40% affordable homes. An increasing number of local schools were considering conversion to academies. Bloor Homes had arranged an exhibition of plans for development on land to the south of the industrial estate in Market Bosworth.

b) Leicestershire Constabulary

PC Hale had reported the following crimes in Carlton during February:

- 1 x Theft of cables – Bosworth Road on 19th;
- 2 x Burglary Dwellings – Bufton Lane on 21st and 25th.

7. Fun run for Sport Relief

Mr D Frazer proposed to organise a 1-mile Fun Run in aid of Sport Relief at 11:00hrs on Sunday 25th March. The route would be from Carlton Green to the end of Main Street and back. **It was resolved** that no objections be raised to this proposal; that a risk assessment be drafted and copied to Mr Frazer; and that help be offered with the recruitment of marshals and other helpers.

8. Community party to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Chairman and Clerk had attended a public meeting in The Gate on 23rd February to discuss the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The group of volunteers had decided to hold one event at Bank Farm on Saturday 2nd June, to include children's games, an 'Ascot hat' competition, a meal, licensed bar and viewing of events in London and the Derby on a big screen TV.

It had also been proposed that every child in the parish should receive a special Carlton Diamond Jubilee Mug, with additional mugs being pre-ordered and supplied to adults at cost. It was anticipated that the profits on the bar would cover the cost of the children's mugs, estimated at about £300. Suppliers and designs of personalised mugs had been researched by the organising committee, and two samples were examined. The PC had been asked to suggest suitable wording for the mugs. **It was resolved** that words be discussed by email, that the Chairman liaise with the Chair of the organising group, and that the PC would underwrite the mugs order using funds from the PAF, providing that the order was made by the Clerk.

Insurance had been investigated and discussed with the landowner of Bank Farm. The PC's policy covered most kinds of events, providing they were organised by a Group or Committee of the PC, and the landowner held public liability insurance. It had been agreed that the event would be covered by the landowner's insurance, and there would be no advantage in constituting the Jubilee Committee as a PC Group.

9. Revised proposals for the planting of a tree to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The frontager affected had expressed reservations about the planting of a single tree in the proposed location (p.1388/6 refers). **It was agreed** that the Clerk pursue new inquiries about an alternative site near the junction of Main St and Barton Rd.

10. Physical improvement works to footpath S51

The Leicestershire & Rutland Foundation had awarded a grant of £1,000 towards physical improvement works to footpath S51. The cost of the works had been estimated at £2,500; the amount of grant applied for had been £1,250; and LCC RoW had offered to match fund any grant received before the end of the financial year (p.1382/18; 1385/11 refer).

A site meeting on 29th February had been attended by Mr E McWilliam, the landowners, the CFG Chairman and the Clerk, and it had been agreed that the kissing gate nearest to footpath S48 be placed so that walkers did not need to enter the muddy gateway as at present. This would require an additional sleeper bridge with handrail, and with other materials the total cost of the works had been estimated at £2,900. Mr McWilliam had agreed to fund the additional works if the PC would contribute £1,250 to the project.

It was resolved that the PC would contribute £1,250 towards the footpath S51 improvement project.

11. Development and management of the northern part of the Affordable Housing Site

In 2009 it had been suggested that six small allotments might be provided on the land to be acquired by the PC on the northern side of the affordable housing site, as an experiment and to test the local demand for plots (p.1289/2a; p.1300/3a; p.1370/7; Report 2011-17 refer). A discussion paper on this topic had been copied to Councillors before the meeting. It was noted that 31 respondents to the Parish Plan questionnaire (issued Oct 2011) had indicated that they would be interested in renting an allotment.

Under the Allotments Acts, any allotments provided on land in the ownership of the PC would be statutory allotments in law, would have to be managed in accordance with this legislation, and would be very difficult to close down, even if there were serious management problems. The proposed allotment plots were small, partially shaded, adjacent to private gardens, awkwardly arranged and adjacent to what would become a public path and area of public open space where children might be expected to play. National surveys of allotment holders had shown that interference, theft and vandalism were a problem on 40% of allotment sites.

It was agreed that the Parish Plan had shown more demand for allotments than had been expected; that the six plots proposed for the land next to the affordable housing site were inadequate; that this site was not a suitable location for allotment plots; and that the legal requirements of the Allotments Acts would make it impossible for the PC to manage this site effectively if problems should develop.

It was resolved (a) that potential sites for allotment gardens be investigated; (b) that the land to be acquired by the PC on the northern side of the affordable housing site be developed as a Jubilee Orchard; and (c) that plans for the proposed Jubilee Orchard be developed in conjunction with the NCHA Project Team and H&BBC Planning Officers.

12. Correspondence

Village Achievement Awards 2012 had been advertised by the RCC. **It was resolved** that an entry be prepared, copied to Councillors for comment, and a final version submitted before the closing date of 20th April.

Standards for England had ceased regulatory functions on 31st January, and was expected to be abolished on 31st March, with statutory standards committees being abolished on 1st July. New arrangements would be the responsibility of H&BBC from 1st July.

H&BBC Staying Healthy Community Grant Scheme had not supported the PC's application for £613 to replace two stiles with kissing gates on footpath S68 (p.1382/18; 1385/11 refer). **It was agreed** that this project be kept under review, and further grant applications be made as appropriate.

LRALC Development & Member Support Questionnaire had been completed and returned.

Bosworth Community Forum feedback form had been completed and returned.

It was resolved that a list of digital communications and reports received be copied to each Councillor, and that copies be forwarded on request.

It was resolved that additional written documentation be circulated.

13. Planning matters: planning applications submitted and determined

12/00049/FUL Erection of two dwellings, 2 Shackerstone Walk. PC had no objection, noted error in drawings, requested condition that access drive be surfaced with bound materials.

12/00125/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling, 10 Main St. PC had no objection, noted error in drawings, requested condition that access drive be surfaced with bound materials.

14. Financial matters

a) Clerk's salary and expenses

The Clerk presented his expenses book for examination, and **it was resolved** that the Clerk be paid £289.61 comprising £210.00 salary, £30 contribution towards broadband subscription and £49.61 approved expenses.

b) Council Tax 2012-13

The Clerk reported that the Band D Council Tax for Carlton had been set at £1,425.28 for 2012-13. The small increase in the parish precept had been more than offset by an increase in the tax base (new houses becoming occupied). There were 24 Parish Councils in the Borough, plus the special expenses area of H&BBC. Carlton was 18th in the list, meaning that 17 parishes had a higher Council Tax, and only 7 had lower. The range was from £1,480.83 in Bagworth to £1,406.21 in Witherley.

15. Matters for report and questions and comments from the public

Mrs Yule (Youth Champion) had reported that the Mobile Youth Club had broken down and would be unable to attend on the night of the PC meeting. Mr Clifford of LCC would attend to meet any young people and discuss the future of the project with them and their parents. The Mobile had attracted very few young people since Christmas, and was likely to be withdrawn after Easter. **It was agreed** that the future of the Youth Club be discussed at the next meeting.

The Annual Spring Clean Litter Pick, organised by the KCTG, had taken place on Sunday 11th March. 17 volunteers had cleared 3m³ of litter from roadside verges and ditches between Carlton village and the Wellesborough Rd, Congerstone canal bridge, Barton in the Beans, the Green Lane, Lount Road bridge, and the Dixie Playing Fields entrance. Prizes had been awarded for the most interesting, most disgusting and most useful items discovered. H&BBC had kindly provided sacks and gloves, loaned extra grabbers and high visibility vests, and collected the rubbish.

The Clerk reported on progress with the Carlton Affordable Housing Project. Supporting documentation for the funding bid had been submitted to the HCA, and considered by the HCA Management Board in mid February. The Board had decided to refer all of the ten submitted bids to Local Peer Review, and this had been carried out on 1st March. Feedback from the Peer Group had been received on 7th March, and following consultations by email, a detailed response had been prepared jointly by C Hewitt (NCHA) and the Clerk. This had been submitted to the HCA on 12th March, and copied to all project partners. The Chairman and Clerk would attend a meeting between NCHA and H&BBC Planners on 21st March.

Articles about the award of Quality Status and the Affordable Housing consultation had been published in the March issue of Aspect (21, no 6, p.6 and 23).

An article about the extension to footpath S90 had been published in the Spring issue of Open Space (30, no 3, p.14-15).

The Clerk had granted consent for the erection of a monolith-style headstone to Geoffrey Michael Anderson.

16. Next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting be held at 19:30 hrs on Wednesday 11th April 2012 at Saint Andrews Church, Main Street, Carlton.

The meeting closed at 2120 hrs.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Abbreviations used in these minutes

CFG	Carlton Footpath Group
HCA	Homes and Communities Agency
H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
KCTG	Keep Carlton Tidy Group
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LRALC	Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils
NCHA	Nottingham Community Housing Association
PAF	Parish Amenities Fund
PC	Parish Council
RCC	Rural Community Council