

CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Saint Andrews Church, Main Street, Carlton at 1930 hrs on Wednesday 11th April 2012

Present: S G Tupling (Chairman), J H Boston, W R Sharp, (Councillors), I D Ould (County Councillor),
3 members of the public, C J Peat (Clerk).

1. Apologies for absence from Councillors

It was resolved that apologies from Cllrs Edmunds and Finch be accepted.

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

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 14th March 2012

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Carlton Charity Land

A report for 2011 had been received and **it was resolved** that it be accepted, copied to parishioners who had enquired about the Charity, and made available from the PC's website (p.1364/7d; Report 2011-09/a; p.1385/11;1387/4a refer).

b) Tree planting to celebrate Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Frontagers had supported a proposal to plant an oak or similar tree on the wide highway verge on the west side of Barton Rd to the east of 97 Main St. The proposal had been agreed in principle with LCC Highways at a site visit on 30th March, subject to investigation of the location of underground services. Container grown *Quercus robur* / *Q. petraea*, 3-4m tall could be obtained for £170 / £171 + £50 delivery. Such a tree could be planted during the weekend of 3-5 June, but would require staking and watering until the autumn.

It was resolved that a container-grown tree be acquired for ceremonial planting during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend at an estimated cost of £250 and charged to the PAF, subject to the agreement and approval of LCC Highways.

5. Reports from members of other public authorities

a) Leicestershire County Council

Cllr I D Ould reported on current County Council and Cabinet business and **was congratulated** on being appointed director of the Troubled Families programme. With 878 troubled families in Leicestershire and potential savings of £300k/family this initiative could have a significant impact on public expenditure.

Legal action had been initiated over the closure of footpath S68 at Shackerstone Station.

Housing developments proposed at Station Road, Sedgemere and off Heath Road in Market Bosworth would have a major impact on the town and local area if all were approved.

The current policies of Leicestershire Constabulary with regard to speeding offences, penalty points notices and summonses were considered inappropriate by many local councils, and a review would be sought later in the year. **It was agreed** that the PC supported the call for review because of local concerns about speeding traffic and the lack of effective enforcement.

b) Leicestershire Constabulary

PC Hale had reported that during March there had been 1 x dwelling burglary with electrical items stolen.

6. Affordable Housing Project: progress report and open public discussion

The project had been discussed on the Jonathan Lampon show, on Radio Leicester at 08:45 on 29th March, with a live interview with the RHE, and interviews with the Chairman, Clerk and a parishioner recorded at the Public Consultation event. A link to the interview on BBC 'Listen Again' had been posted on the PC's website for the week following 29th March. The project had also been outlined in CPRE Leics Branch News (Feb 2012, p.2).

The Chairman and Clerk had attended a meeting at H&BBC on 21st March with J Hicks (H&BBC Planning) and E Smithard and M Price (NCHA) to discuss details of the planning application. It was envisaged that a full planning application would be submitted in April. NCHA and H&BBC would seek legal advice on how best to present the application: the key questions were how to ensure that H&BBC would hold the PC responsible for the landscaping scheme, how the PC would ensure that it would be granted possession of the extra land, and when the transfer of the extra land would take place. H&BBC was happy with the changed proposal to create a Jubilee Orchard, but requested details of the scheme and wished the site to include some open space and picnic table and seats for public use.

Documentation requested by the HCA had been submitted on schedule, and accepted, so a decision on funding had been expected in mid-February. Instead, the HCA Senior Management Team (SMT) had sent the proposal for Peer Review. It was clear from the Report from the Peer Review Panel that the Panel had either not been properly briefed or had misunderstood the proposed management structure of the Project. A written response to the Report had been submitted to the HCA on 12th March.

The Chairman and Clerk had attended a meeting at 7 Main St on 26th March with J Tricker and H Raybould (HCA), C Hewitt (NCHA), and R Windley (RHE) to discuss the Peer Review and issues arising from it. The HCA required additional evidence that the PC met the HCA criteria for a community-led organisation, more detailed documentation on project management during the construction phase, and detailed documentation on site management after construction with particular reference to community involvement in long-term site management.

It had been agreed that this evidence would be presented to the HCA by the PC by 3pm on 28th March, for submission to the Peer Review Panel prior to its meeting on 2nd April, which would allow consideration of the Project by the Senior Management Team in mid-April. Draft documentation had been copied to Councillors and selected partners for comment, and submitted to the HCA on time. NCHA had also completed and submitted the financial template for the project in time for circulation with the agenda papers for the SMT meeting. The decision of the SMT Team was expected before the end of April. If approved by the SMT Team, the decision would then have to be ratified by the Central Affordable Housing Programme Board, after which a formal offer of grant would be made to NCHA.

In order to ensure that members of the community were kept fully informed about the project, could ask questions about it, and could influence the decisions being made, the HCA had requested that an agenda item permitting public discussion be included in every PC agenda until the proposed Northfields Liaison Group had been formally constituted. This procedure was not considered good practice by NALC, which was why the format of the minutes had been changed in October 2010 (p.1338/11; Report 2011-01 refer), but it was agreed that it was justified in this particular instance.

It was resolved that the item *Affordable Housing Project: progress report and open public discussion* be included in the agenda for every meeting of the PC from 11th April 2012 until the Northfields Liaison Group has been formally constituted.

The Chairman invited members of the public to join in the discussion of this item. There was dismay at the tortuous bureaucracy of the funding process and the extended delays, and indignation at the way in which new goalposts were continually being created and moved back. Concerns were expressed about the increasing costs to the landowners, community and NCHA in preparing funding applications, and whether a claim might be made to recover some of these costs if funding should be refused. One parishioner asked whether there was an ombudsman to whom complaint might be made, and it was suggested that the matter might be referred to the local MP for investigation.

7. Future of the Carlton Youth Club

The Youth Mobile had been withdrawn by LCC Youth Service, and would be used for one-off events over the summer in other parts of the Borough. Parents of all young people attending had been invited to attend the last two sessions to meet the manager to discuss the future of the Youth Club: one parent had attended. Two young people from Carlton planned to attend the Barlestone Youth Club in future.

There were no suitable public premises in Carlton, and it had been suggested that a Youth Club might be run in Barton Chapel Schoolroom or Congerstone Village Hall, providing that parents or other local volunteers were prepared to help. A very rough estimate of the cost for a fully qualified Youth Worker at 2.5 hours/fortnight was £1,300 pa, plus premises hire, plus at least one adult volunteer with CRB clearance for a club catering for up to 30 young people. The creation of a new youth club would be eligible for funding from the LCC Big Society grant fund.

The consensus view was that it was not the business of the PC to provide a child minding service at public expense, and that it was up to volunteers and the young people themselves to come up with proposals for consideration. The purpose of the Youth Club was to encourage young people in Carlton to meet and make friendships, because they attended a wide range of schools and might otherwise not meet and become isolated. Various alternative suggestions were put forward, including arranging private meetings or events targeted at young people, and using one of the local school minibuses to run trips to Meridian Park or similar venues.

It was resolved that the situation be reviewed in Carlton News, that suggestions and volunteers be solicited, and that the position be reviewed at the next meeting.

8. Noise from model aircraft flying

A complaint about noise from model aircraft flying from a field at Sycamore Farm, Barton in the Beans (Grid ref SK 3908 0578) had been made to the PC. It had emerged that other complaints had been made to H&BBC. The activity was permitted for 28 days each year under the GDO, but more frequent use required planning permission. It was likely that H&BBC would seek submission of a planning application to regularise the position.

The Clerk had contacted the landowner, and had met with members of the Barton in the Beans Large Model Flying Group. The Group was anxious to maintain good relationships with local communities, and had agreed to hold an open day to be advertised in Carlton News and in Barton village by posters. The Group would also be willing to negotiate restrictions on flying times, and in particular to fly only electric planes (which were silent) on Sundays.

It was resolved that H&BBC Planning and Enforcement Depts be advised of the situation, and that an article soliciting feedback from parishioners be submitted to Carlton News.

9. Correspondence

LCC had warned that over 65 permissive paths in Leicestershire might be closed as Government funding for them was withdrawn.

National Planning Policy Framework had been forwarded by D Tredinnick MP.

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.

10. Planning matters

a) Planning applications submitted and determined

12/00049/FUL Erection of two dwellings, 2 Shackerstone Walk. Approved with standard conditions. **It was noted** that play & open space contributions totalling £2,501.60 were being negotiated for improvements to Carlton Green.

12/00125/FUL AM Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling, 10 Main St. Amended plans. PC had no objection, noted error in drawings, recommended that chimneys be functional and not purely decorative, requested condition that access drive be surfaced with bound materials.

12/00261/CONDIT variation of condition no 2 of planning permission 11/00762/FUL. Insertion of window. PC objected on grounds that window would overlook a private patio area.

b) Licensing application

12/00264/PRM Premises licence for land east of Bosworth Water Park, Wellesborough Rd, Market Bosworth. Application was for six events, including one specified event called *Bosfest* 10:00 to 23:00 hrs on 4-5th Aug 2012 in conjunction with Bosworth Water Park to include children's entertainment and catering extending into evening with live music. Expected attendance 2,500-3,000 people per day. **It was resolved** that an objection be made to this application on the grounds of public nuisance, and that other concerns about the projected events and proposed venue be raised with the LPA.

11. Financial matters**a) Report 2012-04: Quarterly Financial Report**

It was resolved that Report 2012-04 be approved.

b) Report 2012-05. Summary statement of accounts

This report had not been prepared because the necessary bank statements had not been received. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

c) External Audit for the financial year 2011-12

18th June 2012 had been set as the date for the exercise of elector's rights. The audit would be advertised on 27th April, and the PC's accounts would be open for public inspection from 14th May to 15th June inclusive.

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

A parishioner reported that the family cat had died recently after a short and violent illness. The same thing had happened to a nearby resident a week later. No post-mortems had been carried out, but the coincidence was striking and it was possible that someone had been using a rodent poison which did not degrade in the body of the target rats or mice. **It was agreed** that a warning note be published in Carlton News.

The Fun Run for Sport Relief had been held on Sunday 25th March, had attracted about 40 entrants of all ages, had been very successful and enjoyable, and had raised over £500.

Works were in hand on footpath S51: one new sleeper bridge had been installed, two stiles replaced by kissing gates, and one stile replaced by a hand gate. One stile remained, to be moved after scrub clearance and replaced by a kissing gate, with a new sleeper bridge with double handrail.

It was noted that the Spring Clean litter pick had been mentioned in the Hinckley Times (8th March, p.25), under the headline *Rubbish Prizes*.

13. Next meeting

It was resolved that the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of Parish Council be held at 19:30 hrs on Wednesday 9th May 2012 at Saint Andrews Church, Main Street, Carlton.

The meeting closed at 2130 hrs.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Abbreviations used in these minutes

GDO	General Development Order
HCA	Homes and Communities Agency
H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LRALC	Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NCHA	Nottingham Community Housing Association
PAF	Parish Amenities Fund
PC	Parish Council
RHE	Rural Housing Enabler