

CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held in the Hobbit House, r/o Tulip House, 21 Barton Road, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Wednesday 12th February 2014

Present: S G Tupling (Chairman), J H Boston, J D Finch, I Sarson, W R Sharp (Councillors), I D Ould (County Councillor), 2 members of the public, C J Peat (Clerk).

1. Administrative matters

a) Apologies for absence from Councillors

There were none.

b) Declarations of interests (including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) and requests for dispensations in respect of items on the agenda

There were none.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 8th January 2014

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

3. Reports, questions and comments from the following

a) Parish Councillors

There were none.

b) Leicestershire County Council

Cllr I D Ould reported on the current position on improvements to the A5, the MIRA development, wind turbine applications at Bagworth, HS2, the LCC budget and the developing Health & Care Strategy.

A scheme had been launched to provide identity cards for young carers to enable them to collect adult prescriptions and liaise effectively with care agencies. There were an estimated 110,000 young carers in the UK, of whom only 17,000 were known to the authorities. Many young people concealed the fact that they were young carers because they were frightened of being taken into care. Cllr Ould left the meeting at this point.

c) Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Cllr T Chastney had sent a written report. The planning application for 65 homes off Station Road Market Bosworth had been refused by the Planning Committee on the grounds of NE5 building in the countryside, prematurity and sustainability. H&BBC had affirmed that they had a 5 year land supply, and had issued a legal challenge to a recent appeal decision relating to a site at Three Pots Lane Burbage. Cllr Chastney had attended a liaison meeting at Bosworth Marina where work was progressing slowly because of bad weather and the difficulty in finding suitable clay. Work would soon start on the demolition of the old council offices at Argents Mead, and construction of a new leisure centre.

d) Leicestershire Constabulary

PCSO M Chapman had advised that there had been no reported crime in Carlton in January.

e) Parish Clerk

The Ashby Canal towpath would be closed at Market Bosworth until March for construction of the marina entrance and associated footbridge.

A memorial tablet had been installed in the Cemetery in memory of Mark James Kennedy.

The Clerk had given a short presentation about the DJOP to Market Bosworth Natural History Society on 21st January.

The Clerk had represented the PC at a meeting of the Hinckley & Bosworth Parishes Forum on 23rd January. Documentation from the meeting would be circulated.

The Leicester Mercury seat had been raised (p.1489/3e refers).

Two streetlight faults on Nailstone Rd had been reported to LCC. A pothole in Congerstone Lane had been repaired by LCC Highways.

Leicestershire County Council RoW had agreed to replace the four stiles on footpath S50 and the stile at the corner of the garden of The Old Rectory on footpath S68 with kissing gates. An application had been submitted to the H&BBC Parish & Community Initiatives Fund 2014 for £1,404 being 50% of the quoted cost for the replacement of six further stiles on footpath S68 by kissing gates (p.1491/5 refers). These works would create two new stile-free routes in the parish, connected to other stile-free paths. It had also been agreed that there would be some kind of opening ceremony when these works were completed, and that the improved routes would be publicised in a new LCC leaflet. The Clerk thanked the landowners involved for their help and support for this programme.

The PC had been registered with the Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation, with profiles of the S68 Footpath Project and the CDJOP.

A list of digital communications and reports received would be copied to each Councillor, and copies of any files would be forwarded on request. Additional written documentation would be circulated.

f) Members of the public

A local resident requested that consideration be given to the provision of a footway along the western side of Bosworth Road between Overdale and Park View Farm because it was dangerous to walk along the road which was narrow and carried fast-moving traffic. **It was resolved** that this matter be considered at the next meeting.

4. Affordable Housing Project**a) Progress report and open public discussion**

William Davis now estimated that the build contract would be completed in May, with the new homes ready for occupation in June. Work was in progress on installing the electricity transformer; the sessile oak tree (T3) would have to be moved because it was too near the transformer base; construction of the soakaway system had been delayed by the wet weather.

b) Public information event and site visit

The public site visit had been arranged for 1500 hrs on Thursday 13th March, and the Information Event for 1000-1230 hrs on Saturday 22nd March. Both events had been advertised in Carlton News and Aspect (p.1490/4b).

c) Draft contracts and agreements relating to the DJO site

Draft contracts and documentation relating to the transfers of land to Western Power for the transformer site (p.1491/4c), and to the PC for the CDJOP had been copied to Councillors and discussed with the PC's Solicitor; negotiations as to the terms were in progress. **It was resolved** that the Chairman and Clerk be authorised to sign the finalised contracts on behalf of the Council.

5. Repairs to the Jubilee Post

The post had been inspected (p.1488/3a refers), and a report copied to Councillors. The lead cap and ceramic panels were firmly fixed and in good condition, but the varnish was peeling off, and the upper corners of the oak post had rotted. It was considered that the decay was limited to the soft wood on the corners of the post, and would be unlikely to penetrate the hardwood if the post was treated. The base of the post and Carlton Stone slabs were in good condition.

It was resolved that towards the end of the summer when the post was dry, volunteers be sought to remove all of the varnish, treat the decayed areas with wood hardener and preservative, and paint the entire post with three coats of B&Q finishing oil (which included tung oil) at a cost of £23.96/litre inc VAT.

6. Carlton Christmas Tree

The parishioner's letter (p.1490/3f refers) had raised questions about cost, safety, availability of volunteers, and decoration, and had also suggested that a suitable tree might be planted on the East Green.

A Christmas tree had been erected on the East Green each year since December 2002. The decorations, and electricity for the fairy lights and replacement bulbs had kindly been donated. The current fairy lights had been financed by grants and donations. The PC had purchased the tree since 2010: the net cost to the PC (excluding VAT and an annual grant of £50 from H&BBC) had increased from £9.58 in 2010 to £100.00 in 2013. The lighting of the Christmas tree had become an important social event, attended by Santa and with carol singing, mulled wine and mince pies arranged by the Friends of St Andrews Church Carlton. This event had attracted donations of £202.40 to the Friends in 2013. The PC had approved a budget of £300 (excluding VAT but including £50 grant aid: ie net cost £250) for the purchase of a tree in 2014.

The tree had been put up, decorated, taken down and disposed of each year by a group of experienced volunteers. The electrical installation was protected by a circuit breaker, and there had been only one minor accident resulting in a bruise in 2013. The tree had never been vandalised or interfered with, but in 2013 the tree had been taller than usual and had been blown down in a severe gale which had snapped the tree trunk at ground level. The installation point was 20' from the footway, so there had been no danger to highway users.

A number of parishioners were known to have access to suitable lifting equipment, and in the past there had always been someone willing to help with this kind of project. It would probably be prohibitively expensive to engage a contractor to put up the tree. Decoration was a matter for the team doing the work at the time.

The suggestion that a suitable tree might be planted on the East Green had been considered in 2008 (p.1185/4). Carlton Green was a registered village green, and the East Green was the most suitable area of flat open space for ball games. It was PC policy not to permit any permanent structures on Carlton Green which would interfere with the use of the land for lawful sports and pastimes.

It was resolved that the PC would continue to provide a Christmas tree on the East Green providing that volunteers and equipment were available to do the work, and providing that the cost of the tree did not exceed the approved budget; that the installation be supervised by an experienced volunteer familiar with the risk assessment; that the height of the tree must not exceed 15'; that no tree would be planted on Carlton Green; that the author of the letter be invited to help with the decoration of the tree in 2014; and that in future years consideration might be given to the decoration of a suitable tree and holding the lighting ceremony at The Gate Hangs Well (subject to the agreement of the licensee) or in the churchyard (subject to the agreement of the PCC).

7. Request for the provision of an additional bus shelter

A young parishioner had requested that a bus shelter be erected in the vicinity of the East Green for the benefit of young people waiting for school buses (p.1490/3f refers). This pick up point was currently used by four or five young people who travelled to Desford. It was not on any other bus route. **It was resolved** that a bus shelter would not be provided because the low level of use was not sufficient to justify the cost.

8. Survey of the chestnut tree in the churchyard

The horse chestnut tree in the churchyard has last been surveyed on 18th May 2011, followed by removal of excess topsoil, sonic tomography and limited crown reduction (Report 2011-14, p.1367/5, 1372/13) refer. **It was resolved** that the H&BBC Tree Officer be asked to inspect this tree.

9. Planning matters

a) H&BBC Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD

The submission draft of this document would be published for public consultation on 17th February, and included numerous changes to the Carlton settlement boundary. The PC had previously been advised that Carlton was a rural hamlet, and that the settlement boundary would not be changed. **It was resolved** that a meeting be sought with the H&BBC Forward Planning Team to discuss the proposed changes and their implications.

b) Planning applications submitted

13/00978/COU Land to the rear of Sycamore Farm, Main St, Barton in the Beans. Use of land for flying model aircraft and use of derelict building for shelter. Temporary permission for this use had been granted in October 2012, subject to conditions. **It was resolved** that no objection be made, providing that the use of the site remained subject to the same or very similar operating conditions to those imposed in the decision notice relating to application 12/00615/COU.

14/00009/COU Land to the west of Barton Road, Market Bosworth. Change of use of land, formation of a new vehicular access, footpath bridges and internal access roads, erection of 12 timber holiday lodges and construction of lakes. It was resolved that this application be opposed on the grounds (i) of development in open countryside, not well related to either the form of the landscape or the existing pattern of settlement, and which will undermine the physical and perceived separation of the settlements of Carlton and Market Bosworth; and (ii) that the application was incomplete and there were significant discrepancies between the submitted plans and supporting documentation. **It was also resolved** that the Clerk draft a detailed letter setting out all the matters of concern and other matters requiring clarification, and circulate this to Councillors for comment before submission.

14/00043/FUL Common Farm, Barton Rd, Mkt Bosworth. Erection of a new agricultural building and formation of access. It was resolved that no comments be made.

c) Comments submitted under delegated powers

There were none.

d) Planning applications determined

There were none.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Chairman thanked Mr & Mrs Finch for hosting the meeting.

It was resolved that the next meeting be held at 1930 hrs on Wednesday 12th March 2014 in the Hobbit House, rear of Tulip House, 21 Barton Road, Carlton.

The meeting closed at 2110 hrs.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Abbreviations used in these minutes

CFG	Carlton Footpath Group	CGG	Carlton Gardening Group
DJOP	Diamond Jubilee Orchard Project	DPD	Development Plan Document
H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LDF	Local Development Framework	LRALC	Leics and Rutland Association of Local Councils
MIRA	Motor Industry Research Association	NCHA	Nottingham Community Housing Association
PAF	Parish Amenities Fund	PC	Parish Council
PCC	Parochial Church Council	SPD	Supplementary Planning Document