

Carlton Gardening Group

Multorum manibus magnum levatur onus

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at 77 Main Street, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Thursday 5th March 2015

Present: Franco Onesti (Chairman), Graham Jackson, John Piggon, Ian Sarson (PC Rep), Keith Scott, Jo Spencer, Mike Vann, Chris Peat (Secretary).

Apologies: Liz Alun-Jones, Jeanette Knappett, Pat Lockwood, Enid Morgan, Bill and Tania Sharp, Stuart & CJ Tupling.

1. Election of five members to serve as the Executive Committee

Graham Jackson, Jeanette Knappett, Franco Onesti, Bill Sharp & Chris Peat **were elected** members of the Executive Committee.

2. Election of Chairman and Secretary

Franco Onesti **was elected** Chairman, and Chris Peat **was elected** Secretary by members of the Executive Committee.

3. Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 20th March 2014

The minutes were confirmed, and they were signed by the Chairman.

4. Appointment of representative to the Northfields Liaison Group

Members of the Executive Committee **resolved that** Franco Onesti be appointed CGG representative on the Northfields Liaison Group.

5. Progress since the last meeting

Franco reported on work during the calendar year 2014. The purchase of the site by the PC had been completed on 23rd July 2014 and the Northfields development had been formally opened on 12th September 2014. A display about the work of the CGG had been prepared for the Horticultural Show on 30th August, and displayed in the church at this and subsequent events. Regular reports had been published in Carlton News, and the CGG now comprised 22 members. The Executive Committee had met and discussed issues on site as they arose, rather than holding formal meetings, and this had worked very well in practice.

During 2014, members of the CGG provided a total of 249.5 man-hours of volunteer labour to the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard Project. CGG volunteers have planted all of the trees specified in the approved planning application, cut the Barton Road hedge and pruned the trees in it, planted up gaps in the northern hedge, weeded and levelled the site, made a base for the picnic table, built the path, cultivated part of the site and planted the central part of the wildflower meadow, planted the shrub areas and

additional trees, imported and stacked dead wood for invertebrates, and reconstructed the two reptile and amphibian refuges. The stakes and tubes for the shrub plantings have been donated by a parishioner. A plan of the site has also been drawn up.

The construction of the path was the biggest and most difficult project undertaken by the CGG, and was completed between 16th and 19th September using hired plant. The path was kindly excavated by Mick Pointon, and the stone was kindly supplied at cost by Breedon Aggregates Ltd. The hired plant was also used for ground works and site levelling between 20th and 22nd September. The path construction and associated ground works had required 123.5 man-hours of volunteer time. Chris thanked all of the volunteers and the catering support team for their willing hard work and support through this period of intense activity.

The Nailstone Rd end of the wildflower meadow had become waterlogged in September, and WD had kindly provided an excavator and decompacted the subsoil which had improved the drainage. WD had also broken up the concrete base of the site sign. St Andrews PCC had kindly donated three lengths of trunk from the horse chestnut tree felled in the churchyard, and these had been delivered to the site by Mick Pointon. Local residents had kindly donated three plastic compost bins to the Project.

The picnic table and park bench seat had been delivered and were awaiting installation. The PC was planning to install play equipment for toddlers between the picnic table and the parking area.

6. Financial report

The works in 2014 had been funded directly by the PC and not charged to Group funds.

Carlton Gardening Group Earmarked Fund:

20.3.14	Balance brought forward from previous statements	+	132.00
1.4.14	Allocation from Carlton PC	+	200.00
14.1.15	Allocation from Carlton PC	+	200.00
13.2.15	Morello cherry	-	5.00
24.2.15	Japanese maple	-	4.00
5.3.15	Balance carried forward	+	523.00

7. Forward work programme

The northern hedge had been cleared of weed overgrowth, and 100 whips had been ordered for beating up. A small working party would be needed to plant these as soon as they were delivered. Local stores were being monitored for suitable trees for incorporation into the Barton Road woodland area.

It was agreed that a holly cultivar with bright berries and which would grow to a large size be planted between the electricity transformer and Nailstone Road, and that crab apple trees with bright fruit (such as 'John Downie', 'golden hornet') be planted (a) by the gate and (b) at the Barton Road entrance. These, or similar cultivars, would be bought from a garden centre if they could not be found at cheap outlets.

The Nailstone Road wildflower meadow area had been monitored through February, and although the weather had been wet there had been no waterlogging, so the decompaction carried out by WD had been successful. This area was ready for cultivation, levelling and seeding. The seed had been ordered.

The Barton Road wildflower meadow area had been sprayed, but not cultivated and was uneven and full of weeds. **It was agreed** that a working party attempt to hand weed and cultivate this area because this would be quicker and probably more effective than repeated spraying and rotovating. **It was noted** that the park bench seat was about to be installed by a contractor, and that the area round it would need to be levelled.

It was agreed that the Bug Hotel would be located in the Barton Road woodland area, and that an attempt be made to involve village children in its construction. Franco agreed to manage this project providing that one or two additional volunteers could be found. Members were asked to collect materials, with a view to building the hotel during the summer holidays.

The location of the Hotel would be discussed and decided on site – one view was that the hotel would be educational, interesting and would make a strong statement about the thinking behind the CDJO Project and therefore should be located in a prominent position; the other view was that the hotel would have a scruffy appearance, might be subject to interference if put in a prominent place, and should be sited unobtrusively.

Chris had imported a large amount of dead wood for invertebrates and had put this in small piles all over both woodland areas. John considered that this made the whole site look very untidy, particularly from Nailstone Road. The CDJO was intended to become an important public open space, catering for different kinds of user as well as wildlife. The point was made that the CDJO must present a neat and cared-for appearance so that it would be respected by visitors, and not be subject to dog fouling, littering or vandalism. It was suggested that invertebrate habitats might be concentrated in the Barton Road woodland area, and that some explanatory signage would be helpful. **It was agreed** that these issues be discussed on site.

It was agreed that site signage be considered over the summer. Chris reported that a parishioner had acquired a router and was willing to use this to make wooden signs. Chris also noted that the four words *Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard* all had seven letters and might be carved into seven wooden cubes which could be threaded onto a rail so that they could be rotated independently.

Chris reported on progress with the proposed Toddlers Play Area. The PC envisaged a two-tower activity unit and a small double swing, all in natural timber and set in bark contained within a timber board surround. The car park had been reduced by 1.5m, and the proposed play equipment and necessary fall zones would now just fit into the space available. The site had kindly been excavated by Brian and Ben Sutton, leaving a strip of soil 1m wide to allow the planting of a hedge between the play area and the car park.

The PC had found it difficult to obtain the necessary specifications and prices, but hoped to be able to award the contract soon. A planning application had been submitted, but modified plans were required before this could be validated. Members expressed strong support for this project and were keen to help in any way possible. Chris thought it

advisable for the play equipment to be installed by a contractor because of the need for certification and inspection, but **it was agreed** that the timber surround, membrane and bark infill might be carried out by the CGG to reduce costs.

It was resolved that the following forward work programme be adopted:

February

- Plant self-set holly plants from parishioners in hedges
- NCHA landscape contractor to plant T5 and Nailstone Rd hedges
- Look out for cheap crab apple trees in local supermarkets and plant in shrub areas and at site entrances
- Monitor previously waterlogged area behind 11 Northfields – if still wet consider installing field drain
- Adjust level of rodding eye near to 8 Northfields
- Survey and clean Barton Rd and north hedges and beat up

March

- PC to agree final design for Toddlers Play Area – decide on neighbouring planting and location of big chestnut logs
- PC's contractor to install park bench seat
- Install picnic table; peg down compost bins to stop them blowing over
- Begin to collect materials for creation of bug hotel
- Burn brash on Barton Rd wildflower meadow area
- Attempt manual weeding and cultivation of Barton Road wildflower meadow area
- Spray out weeds – unsown meadow areas, along path, between shrubs, along both sides of North hedge if agreed with adjacent landowner; hand weed north hedge if necessary
- Cultivate and level Nailstone Road wildflower meadow

April

- Sow remaining wildflower meadow areas
- Wildflowers in meadow flower April – June in second year after planting
- PC's contractor to mow meadow to 25mm when grass reaches 75mm high and repeat through season, collecting all clippings and leaving in compost bins

May

- Article about bug hotel in Carlton News
- Spray around shrub and fruit trees
- Maintain weed-free environment along north hedge.
- Repeat spray around shrubs and fruit trees as necessary

June / July

- Installation of Toddlers Play Area
- Reinstatement of path and parking area around Toddlers Play Area
- Consider re-use of redundant water trough from Cemetery Field
- PC to consider laying fine surface on path

August

- Summer school holidays – involve children in creation of bug hotel
- Order bulbs for planting in meadow areas
- Make up disturbed paths, car park, remodel path edges if necessary

September

- First planting of bulbs - ? village event
- Survey and decide on replacement of any dead trees and shrubs
- ? Path surfacing works

October

Review northern hedge and decide management for next year – leave/trim/leave to grow with a view to layering after 5 years

? final cut of wildflower meadow to 25mm

November

PC to consider seeking quotation from grounds maintenance contractor for Mowing of wildflower meadow during 2016 only

8. Annual Report for Carlton Parish Council

It was resolved that the annual report to the PC comprise item 6 and the forward work programme above.

The meeting closed at 2045 hrs.

Signed _____

Date _____

Abbreviations used in these minutes

CDJO	Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard
CGG	Carlton Gardening Group
NCHA	Nottingham Community Housing Association
PC	Carlton Parish Council
PCC	Parochial Church Council
WD	William Davis Ltd

Group membership on 5th March 2015

a) Executive Committee

Graham Jackson, Jeanette Knappett, Franco Onesti, Chris Peat, Ian Sarson, Bill Sharp

b) Members

Liz Alun-Jones	Tom Alun-Jones
Judith Boston	David Branson
Douglas Kinghorn	Jeanette Knappett
Pat Lockwood	Enid Morgan
John Piggon	Keith Scott
Tania Sharp	Jo Spencer
Melanie Spink	Stuart Tupling
C J Tupling	Michael Vann