

Carlton Gardening Group

Multorum manibus magnum levatur onus

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at 3 Main Street, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Wednesday 20th March 2019

Present: Graham Jackson (Chairman), Franco Onesti, Jeanette Knappett, John Piggon, Ian Sarson (PC Rep), Bill Sharp, Chris Peat (Secretary).

Apologies: Robin Arnold, Enid Morgan, Keith Scott, Tania Sharp, Stuart and Caroline Tupling, Mick Vann,

1. Minutes of the meeting of Monday 13th March 2018

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

2. 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. Councillor Ian Sarson is an *ex officio* member of this committee.

3. Election of Chairman and Secretary

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

4. Appointment of representative to the Northfields Liaison Group

Franco Onesti reported that the AGM of the NLG had been held on 23rd April 2018, but there had been no business to discuss. There had been no significant issues since the Northfields development had been completed, in spite of public objections to the scheme at the time. In view of this, the Constitution of the NLG had been changed in June, so that in future meetings would only be called as and when necessary and there would be no requirement to hold a public AGM each year.

The revised Constitution still required the CGG to appoint a representative, in case a meeting was called.

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

5. Financial report

All expenditure is reported in the Parish Council's quarterly financial reports under the Carlton Gardening Group Earmarked Fund.

13.3.18	Balance brought forward from previous statement	+	149.32
26.10.18	Turf for churchyard	-	7.98
4.11.18	Grass seed for cemetery	-	4.99
4.12.18	2 X <i>Ilex</i> shrubs	-	9.00
5.12.18	20 x <i>Ilex</i> hedging plants	-	31.66
20.1.19	Damson <i>Merryweather</i> replacement for T32	-	19.99
20.3.19	Balance carried forward	+	75.70

This account will be credited with £150 in April 2019.

6. Works carried out since the last meeting

The Chairman reported that the CGG had 15 members who had provided a total of 82.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (33.75 hours), Little Lane (0.25 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (41 hours), Carlton Green (2.0 hours) and on roadside tree plantings (5.5 hours) during 2018. Enid Morgan and Tania Sharp **were thanked** for providing refreshments for working parties. All members had signed consent forms, as required by the Data Protection Regulations.

a) Diamond Jubilee Orchard

The revised mowing regime had resulted in a much neater appearance, and had reduced the volume of clippings to be removed. The long grass had been cut with an Allen scythe and made into hay which had been donated to a local equestrian establishment.

A long drought over the summer had resulted in the death of about half of the holly whips in the Nailstone Road hedge, and a damson tree (T32). These had all been replaced. Stakes had been removed from all of the fruit trees except for the new T32, and the Shackerstone apple (T36) which had blown half over and been pulled back upright, pruned and staked.

The specimen holly at the end of the Barton Rd hedge had been cut off at ground level, possibly by the verge mower. This tree had been replaced and protected by a metal guard.

Rotting bark had been removed from the chestnut logs next to the picnic table and they had also been smoothed to provide a better seating surface.

Weed growth had been controlled; the path surface had stood up well to wear; the Barton Rd hedge had been cut and the northern hedge side-trimmed and gaps planted up.

Shrubs had been planted inside the knee-rail alongside the rear access to 9 Northfields.

b) Churchyard and Cemetery

Shrubs in the SW corner of the churchyard had been cut hard back, and a variegated holly on the west side of the church path had been pruned to a standard tree. In both cases vigorous bramble growth had been removed, emergent bramble shoots treated with herbicide, and cyclamen planted.

A small section of bank between the church path and a kerbed grave had been re-graded and turfed, and this experiment had worked well. The remaining areas of bank would be re-graded to a similar profile by a volunteer contractor when pipes were laid for a servery and toilet, and would then be cultivated by the Gardening Group.

The dead flowering cherry tree, and a rowan tree in poor condition near the church gate had been felled; the rowan had been found to be hollow and at risk of collapse. The rowan had been left to see whether it would coppice from the stool. The dead cherry root would be removed when the path banks were re-graded; possible replacement trees were being considered by the PC and PCC.

c) Little Lane

The path had settled down well and provided an excellent all-weather walking surface. Bramble growth in the cleared areas had been controlled by spot treatment with herbicide.

d) Roadside hedges

Three out of the five oak tree planted in 2017 had died in the summer drought, in spite of watering. All three trees had now been replaced with smaller container-grown oak trees.

e) Carlton Green

The ash tree on the West Green had been cut back because some branches were rubbing against cables. Encroaching turf had been trimmed back from the footway along the East Green.

7. Forward work programme

The Diamond Jubilee Orchard and Little Lane now required relatively little maintenance. The programme of smaller and more frequent working parties had proved successful, and would be continued.

A draft forward work programme had been copied to all members before the meeting.

Some kind of container for burning rubbish was required. Ian reported that two empty compost bins had blown into the neighbouring field and needed to be secured. These bins had been donated to the Group, but were not all being used and were holding rotting weeds rather than compost. It was agreed that the contents of the bins be investigated and used as a mulch if suitable. The wire fence near the electricity

transformer in the neighbouring field had been knocked over by a car, but the new hedging was growing up and (with the agreement of the landowner) all of this fencing might be removed.

Franco noted that the snowdrops and crocuses in the DJO had made good displays and were multiplying, but the aconites were not doing well. Chris noted that plantings of aconites in the churchyard made in the past had failed, but that cyclamen near the church gate were doing very well and spreading, and suggested that some might be moved to the DJO when the banks were altered. Franco suggested that extra bulbs might be planted in the DJO; Bill noted that the full-size daffodils on the churchyard bank made a good display but generated a lot of clippings later in the year; Chris recommended dwarf narcissi or crocuses for any plantings in grass for this reason.

Chris noted that a crab apple near the S end of Little Lane was very leggy and leaning over the neighbour's wall and should be removed, and suggested that a hornbeam might be planted at the N end to shade out the brambles.

It was resolved that the updated work programme be adopted and appended to the minutes. **It was resolved** that a report on the work of the Group be submitted to Carlton News.

8. Annual Report for Carlton Parish Council

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

Aly and Graham Jackson **were thanked** for providing refreshments at the meeting, and Graham Jackson and Chris Peat **were thanked** for their work for the Group over the past year.

The meeting closed at 20:35 hrs.

Signed _____

Date _____

Abbreviations used in these minutes

DJO	Diamond Jubilee Orchard
CGG	Carlton Gardening Group
H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
NCHA	Nottingham Community Housing Association
NLG	Northfields Liaison Group
PC	Parish Council
PCC	Parochial Church Council