

# CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a meeting held at Saint Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Present:** S G Tupling (Chairman), J H Boston, S J Cooper, I Sarson, M A Vann  
(Councillors), I D Ould (County Councillor), 3 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 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**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**

The Chairman reported that a local farmer had badly flailed several sections of hedge which did not belong to him, and had left debris over adjacent roads. The flailed sections included a paddock hedge at Bufton, the CDJO hedge along Barton Rd, and the overgrown hedge at the rear of 4 Nailstone Rd (p.1771/4e refers). The person responsible had been asked not to do this again.

Cllr Cooper reported that a large drone fitted with a camera had flown back and forth over rear gardens at a height of about 50' between 46 and 52 Main St (and possibly others) on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Cllr Cooper reported dog fouling on the road outside 46 Main St.

Cllr Sarson reported that the *Slow* road markings on Carlton Road were worn and faded.

#### **b) Leicestershire County Council**

Cllr I D Ould **was thanked** for a written report on LCC business, and had no casework in Carlton. The Clerk drew attention to a leaflet which had been delivered to the PC by post in spite of being wrongly addressed, and asked why LCC was spending money on posting items which could be sent by email, and why LCC's database of PC contact addresses had not been used. Cllr Ould left the meeting at this point.

#### **c) Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council**

Cllr M Cook **was thanked** for a written report on H&BBC business, and had no casework in Carlton.

**d) Carlton Neighbourhood Watch group**

Ms R Yule had reported that in July there had been 2 reports of violent or sexual offences and 1 of other crime; in August there had been 1 report of a violent or sexual offence and 1 of vehicle crime.

**e) Parish Clerk**

**Carlton defibrillator** – no response had been received to the PC's letter (p.1777/4 refers).

**Fingerpost** – at Harry's Grave had been repaired (p.1776/3e refers).

**Jitty hedge** - the hedge on the southern side of the jitty had still not been cut back; Cllr Vann had met with the owner of the land to discuss management and expected that the hedge would soon be cut back.

**Street lighting costs** – LCC had advised that in 2013 a typical 35W SOX lamp would cost £26.78 pa to operate from dusk to dawn (£33.44 pa at 2019 prices). In 2013 the cost of running 27 x 35W SOX lamps from dusk to dawn would have been £723.06 pa; turning all except 13 off from midnight to 5.30 am saved an estimated £230 pa. The estimated cost of running the current LED lights (with all except 13 turned off from midnight to 5.30 am) is £379. The cost of running all of the LED lights from dusk to dawn would be £635.42 (p.1777/5 refers). **It was resolved** that no further action be taken (p.1777/5 refers).

**Parish Forum** – on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at Sibson had been attended by the Clerk. The principal issues had been the failure of H&BBC to meet housing targets, the provision of affordable homes and resilience planning (p.1776/3e refers). **It was resolved** that the Carlton Emergency Plan be reviewed.

**Ash die-back** – letters had been delivered on 20<sup>th</sup> Sept (p.1772/8 refers).

**Heritage Open Day** – had been held on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept in St Andrew's Church. Displays about the CFG, CGG and KCTG had been made by the Clerk, who had also led two guided walks around the village.

**Tree Warden** – had attended the Midlands Tree Warden Forum at the National Memorial Arboretum on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept, and had been invited to attend a meeting of the Tree Council to help with a national strategy for training and advising tree wardens about ash die-back disease.

**East Midlands Airport** – questionnaire on future airspace programme had been returned.

**Cemetery** – permission had been granted for the erection of a headstone to Clifford Palmer.

**21 Main St** – a tall wooden building was being erected in the back garden, and was not shown on the approved plans for the development (18/00305/FUL). **It was resolved** that H&BBC be asked to investigate and take appropriate action.

**Better Environment Better Business** – the importance of public realm and heritage, H&BBC event at Bosworth Hall Hotel on 29<sup>th</sup> October. **It was resolved** that the Clerk represent the PC.

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**

The owner of The Gate Hangs Well responded to complaints about inconsiderate parking around the pub (p.1775/3a refers), and said that he would be prepared to ask customers to move any car that was causing a problem. The owner would also be happy to meet with anyone to discuss problems caused by parking and would welcome suggestions as to how these could be minimised. Attempts to buy, rent or lease extra land in the vicinity for a car

park had failed. The Chairman **thanked** the owner for attending, and reaffirmed that the PC supported the development of The Gate Hangs Well as a community facility, and recognised that increased street parking was inevitable as the business developed.

The occupier of Park View Farm described the effects of the noise generated by the new blue lines (see 5 below) on his family and quality of life. The Clerk apologised for the unexpected impacts of this project.

#### **4. Report 2019-20: Quarterly report on speed and traffic monitoring**

**It was resolved** that Report 2019-20 be withdrawn and that anomalies in the radar results be investigated and a report made to the next meeting of the PC.

#### **5. Bosworth Road: New road markings**

On 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, wide blue lines had been laid across Bosworth Rd in the form of a block of 5 lines at the start of the *dragon's teeth* markings, followed by blocks of 4, 3, 2 and then a single line towards Mkt Bosworth. Complaints had immediately been received from the occupiers of Park View Farm and Common Farm about the noise generated by these lines. The Clerk had visited Park View Farm and had agreed that the level of noise inside the house (which had double-glazed windows and doors) was unacceptable.

At the site visit (p.1772/10 refers) it had been understood that the transverse bar markings would consist of 5 white lines before the *dragon's teeth* markings, and those present had been reassured that these markings would not generate noise. The white *dragon's teeth* markings were thinner and smoother than the blue lines, and did not generate significant noise. LCC Highways had advised that the blue lines could be scraped and re-laid with a lower upstand, but they would still produce some noise.

Report 2019-20 indicated that the new lines had had a small effect in reducing the speed of vehicles approaching the village, but investigation of anomalously low speeds on specific days had revealed spurious radar data. This meant that any effect would be even less than indicated in the report, and probably insignificant (see 4 above).

The blue lines could only be removed by hydroblasting, which would cost about £2,750. In view of the confusion about the installation, LCC Highways had offered to share the cost 50:50 with the PC.

**It was resolved** that LCC Highways be asked to remove the blue lines as soon as possible, at an estimated cost of £1,375 to the PC. **It was resolved** that the necessary funds be vired from the allocation of £3k made to the recreational land reserve (p.1772/10 refers).

#### **6. Carlton Parish Cemetery: Table of Fees**

The Social Fund (Children's Funeral Fund for England) Regulations 2019 (SI No 1064) had come into force on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. These required the PC to carry out the burial of a stillborn baby or young person under 18 years old without charge, and to then claim the appropriate fees from the Children's Funeral Fund. The Table of Fees had been amended to take account of this change.

**It was resolved** that the revised Table of Fees be adopted and replace those approved on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (p.1714/6 refers).

## **7. Diamond Jubilee Orchard: mowing contract**

The CGG had recommended that an increased area of grass between the path and the hedge and woodland edge be mown in order to improve the appearance of the Diamond Jubilee Orchard. A draft specification for the works had been copied to Councillors before the meeting. The existing contract was for 2018-20 inclusive, with the option to renew for a further 2 years (p.1681/5c refers).

**It was resolved** that the revised specification be approved, and that the current contractor be asked to submit a revised quotation for the works required in 2020.

## **8. Toddlers Play Area: independent annual inspection**

The TPA had been inspected by the Play Inspection Co on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept; the report had been copied to Councillors and uploaded to the PC's website. The report had identified the following hazards, all of which had been assessed as low or very low risk:

- (i) projecting bolt threads on access gate to contractor's parking area;
- (ii) minor damage to wire mesh fencing along Nailstone Road;
- (iii) loose fixings to picnic table;
- (iv) splits and shakes in timber in swings and climbing frame;
- (v) corrosion in swing seat frames;
- (vi) timber edging slightly within falling space of steps to climbing frame platform;
- (vii) fungi and algae on chestnut seating logs, and some rot in timber.

The inspection record was checked: the TPA had been inspected weekly since the last report (p.1728/6 refers), and necessary minor works carried out. The splits in the timber uprights had been found to widen in hot dry weather and close up in damp conditions. Wicksteed had advised that this was normal and that the cracks should on no account be filled. None of the splits passed through fixing points. The bolts in the picnic table had been tightened, but slight movement was an inherent feature of the design. The temporary fencing along Nailstone Rd had been damaged by a vehicle and repaired. The holly hedge was intended to replace this fence, but was proving slow to establish - half of the whips had died in the dry summer of 2018 and had been replaced: the replacements were growing, but still small. The bark had been removed from the chestnut seating logs and the surfaces smoothed; they were fine to sit on in dry weather.

**It was resolved** that the report be noted and the identified hazards monitored in accordance with the Inspector's recommendations.

## **9. Project proposals and the budget for 2020-21**

**It was resolved** that plans, specifications and preliminary costings be prepared for the repair of the existing tarmac path in the Cemetery and an extension of the east-west path to serve the next section of grave spaces with a view to submitting an application to the H&BBC P&CIF in 2020.

## **10. Financial matters**

### **a) Report 2019-21: Quarterly financial statement July – September 2019**

The monthly current account statements had been checked and signed as required (p.1515/9c refers), and the reconciliation was checked against the most recent statements for all bank accounts. **It was resolved** that Report 2019-21 be approved.

**b) Refund of income tax**

Income tax paid to HMRC on behalf of the Clerk in 2018-19 had been refunded to the PC. **It was resolved** that a refund of £140 be made to the Clerk.

**c) Reimbursement of costs incurred by the Clerk**

The Clerk presented his record of costs for examination, and **it was resolved** that costs of £122.08 be reimbursed, comprising £30 contribution towards broadband subscription, £85.49 costs, and £6.59 VAT.

**11. Planning matters****a) Planning applications submitted**

There were none.

**b) Comments submitted under delegated powers**

**It was noted** that the following comments had been submitted by the Clerk under delegated powers after consultation with Members and the Chairman (p.1472/10a refers).

**19/01006/HEDGE to be removed.** Bank Farm, Congerstone Lane. PC had no objection.

**19/01007/CONDIT first floor fire escape and external staircase.** Gate Hangs Well, Barton Rd. PC had no objection.

**c) Planning applications determined**

**19/00773/FUL Part demolition of existing garage, erection of 1.5 storey dwelling and proposed boundary walls.** Windhover House, 69 Main St. Permitted.

**19/00834/FUL Single storey extension to side/rear.** St Andrew's C of E Parish Church, 30 Main St. Permitted

**12. Next meeting**

**It was resolved** that the next meeting be held at 19:30 hrs on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Saint Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton.

The meeting closed at 21:02 hrs.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abbreviations used in these minutes**

CDJO	Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard	CFG	Carlton Footpath Group
CGG	Carlton Gardening Group	H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
HMRC	Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs	KCTG	Keep Carlton Tidy Group
LCC	Leicestershire County Council	LED	Light Emitting Diode
PC	Parish Council	P&CIF	Parish & Community Initiative Fund
SOX	Low pressure sodium light bulb	TPA	Toddlers Play Area