

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CARLTON

Minutes of a meeting held in St Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton
at 19:00 hrs on Wednesday 8th May 2019

Present: S G Tupling (Chairman), J H Boston, S J Cooper, I Sarson, M A Vann (Councillors), I D Ould (County Councillor), M Cook (Borough Councillor), 7 members of the public, C J Peat (Clerk).

1. Minutes of the meeting of 9th May 2018

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

2. Report from the Carlton Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

Carlton NHW is an informal community group that exists to help Carlton stay safe, increase knowledge of local crime and policing matters and encourage neighbourliness.

73 people are currently registered with the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, and receive monthly e-mail local crime updates and alerts.

Rural Watch is available as a text service with live updates of local issues and the national NHW frequently circulate alerts on latest "scams". Market Bosworth Police Facebook page and The Beat monthly newsletter are good sources of local police news.

2018/19

During the past year there were **28 reported crimes in Carlton**. This is 50% higher than 2017/18 and 400% higher than the previous year with burglary having the biggest impact. Details are:

1 criminal damage and arson	3 other theft
6 vehicle crime	11 burglary
4 violence and/or sexual offence	2 anti-social behaviour
1 public order.	

The increase in crime in Carlton goes against the trend of a 10% fall in reported crime across our wider neighbourhood of Bosworth, Ratby, Groby, Markfield and Stanton in 2018/19.

There is no obvious reason for this although the high proportion of burglary - 40% of Carlton total reported crime against 11% for the wider area - may suggest that thieves target affluent villages and return to an area of success. NHW messages continue to reinforce the need to secure our property and outbuildings at all times and look out for unusual behaviour.

Violence and/or sexual offences remain the highest overall crime across the wider area with 619 offences making up 29% of all area crimes. The Carlton trend for this crime is much lower at 14%.

December and July were our busiest months for reported crime.

Outcome rates for crime in our wider area show:

84% "no further action" (85% last year)

7% "under investigation" (7% last year)

9% "offender dealt with by police or the court (8% last year).

The reasons recorded by Leicestershire Police for no further action are "investigation complete, no suspect identified", "unable to prosecute suspect" or "not in the public interest".

Wider Comparisons

In the 12 months to September 2018 the crime rate in Hinckley and Bosworth was broadly the same as the crime rate across nationally similar areas. However:

- burglary was much higher than average (the worst in a family of 15 most similar groups)
- vehicle crime was much higher than average (the worst in the family of 15 most similar groups)
- drug crime was significantly lower than average
- violence and/or sexual offence was significantly lower than average.

With this in mind Carlton residents are advised to maintain high security on their property and vehicles and continue to be vigilant for neighbours.

Leicestershire Police

Leicestershire Police increased their budget by 6.2% for 2019/20 and have a projected increase of 80 new officers to be recruited this year. Although these are targeted for neighbourhood areas we do not know yet whether this will include Bosworth.

Our local beat team have continued to engage on a regular basis offering meetings and drop in sessions which are advertised in the NHW circulation. Most recently the team met representatives from Parish Councils and NHW at Bosworth Hall with discussions including:

- road safety and speeding in the villages
- cross border criminality (eg from Warwickshire)
- vehicle crime and owner lack of security
- a trial of online reporting to improve problems with the 101 number
- local police staffing levels and geography of covering 52 villages
- potential under reporting of crime
- social media including the monthly newsletters and Bosworth Facebook page.

Contacts

PC Robert Cross is a dedicated Neighbourhood Officer for Bosworth villages and can be contacted on 101 voicemail no 0207

Sgt James Cross heads the local policing unit for Bosworth, Ratby, Groby, Markfield and Stanton and can be contacted by calling 101 and asking for voicemail no 2100

Inspector Emma Maxwell is the Local Policing Commander for Hinckley and Blaby

We thank all local officers for their support over the past year.

Rosi Yule Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Tel: 292212 Email: chalkstorm@btopenworld.com

3. Report from the Chairman of Carlton Parish Council

2018-19 has been another interesting and productive year for the parish and I have attempted to summarize the main items affecting the village.

Council

Carlton Parish Council held 10 meetings last year, all in Saint Andrew's Church. In addition, open briefings were given by the Police Local Beat Team and Dial-a-Ride and were well attended. All meetings are open to the public and are advertised on the Parish notice board, in Carlton News and on the Council's web site – www.carltonpc.co.uk .

Whilst Council meetings may not be the most exciting event in the calendar, I would encourage you to attend a meeting to see first-hand how local issues are handled, alternatively please free to contact myself or any Councillor over any issues.

Attendance this year was: Tupling 7; Boston 8; Sarson 8; Sharp 9; Cooper 10; Clerk 10. Two training courses were attended. Parish Council meetings were attended by 16 representatives of other organisations and 15 parishioners. The PC considered 13 planning applications and was represented at 9 meetings of other bodies.

The Parish Council's accounts for 2018-19 have been published, but are now exempt from routine external audit unless objections to them are raised by a member of the public.

Election

Local elections were held on May 2nd and with only 5 nominees for the 5 vacancies on the Parish Council an election was not required.

Bill Sharp who has been a Councillor for 32 years has decided to retire and we all thank him for his hard work and dedication; the vacancy has been filled by Mick Vann.

On a sadder note David Price and Tony Cooper, both former Councillors, died during the year having served on the council for 40 and 32 years respectively.

Traffic Problems

Speeding traffic continues to be a problem everywhere and as promised we purchased a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to be located at 5 different sites within the village. The data which is published in Carlton news continues to be collated but it is still too early to draw any conclusions.

The success of Bosworth Water Park, particularly at holiday times, has caused major access and parking problems on the Wellsborough Rd. Parking restrictions and new speed limits are being imposed but clearly a longer-term solution is required. Similar problems are also occurring at Twycross Zoo and Thornton Reservoir proving that increased tourism requires a long-term review of infrastructure.

Parking

Already reported in Carlton News, parking on pavements is illegal and is creating obstructions for pedestrians, push and wheelchair users. In order to prevent a potential accident, I would be grateful if you would ask visitors to help us by not parking on the pavement.

Churchyard

Continual maintenance by the Gardening Group has included the felling of the cherry and rowan tree and some regrading and turfing of the path bank which will be extended.

The front retaining wall is currently being monitored for structural movement and the Victorian letterbox has now been repaired.

Village News

A good way of keeping up to date with village activities is Carlton News which is distributed quarterly, or you can refer to Facebook and the Parish website.

Carlton Charity Lands

This year the trustees have been able to grant 6 educational awards totaling £890.44. This trust has been designed to provide educational support in the form of monetary grants to students aged 16 to 23. For further information please contact Ian Sarson at madrailfan@aol.com.

The Gate Hangs Well – Public House

The Gate plays a key role in the community hosting monthly quiz nights and regular special events, and plans have been passed for an extension to the building for a restaurant area.

Coffee mornings continue to be held on Fridays at 11am, providing a useful forum and meeting place for all parishioners.

Thanks to

Internal Auditor, Carlton News, Carlton Footpath Group, Carlton Gardening Group, Carlton Neighbourhood Watch Group, Keep Carlton Tidy Group, Carlton Youth Champions, Heritage and Tree Warden, Parochial Church Council, Village Fete and Horticultural Show organisers.

Our Borough and County Councillors, Maureen Cook & Ivan Ould, and our local Police officers and supporting authorities.

As always, my thanks go to the army of volunteers who have given their time, expertise and equipment to keep the Parish running smoothly.

Finally, my thanks go to my fellow Councillors Judith Boston, Simon Cooper, Ian Sarson, Bill Sharp and your Parish Clerk Chris Peat whose support make all of this possible.

Stuart Tupling Chairman

The meeting closed at 19:20 hrs.

Signed _____

Date _____