

Carlton Gardening Group

Multorum manibus magnum levatur onus

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at of 3 Main Street, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Wednesday 16th March 2022

Present: Graham Jackson (Chairman), Jeanette Knappett, Franco Onesti, John Piggon, Ian Sarson, Mick Vann, Chris Peat (Secretary).

Apologies: Robin Arnold, Enid Morgan, Keith Scott, Bill & Tania Sharp, Stuart & Caroline Tupling.

1. Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 8th June 2021

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

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

Graham Jackson, Bill Sharp, Jeanette Knappett, Mick Vann & 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

There had been no meetings of the NLG since the last meeting, but it is necessary to appoint a representative in case a meeting should be called. Members of the Executive Committee **resolved that** Ian Sarson be appointed CGG representative on the NLG.

5. NGS Gardens Open Day

It was resolved that the CGG would support the NGS Gardens Open Day by donating spare plant pots to 34 Main St; providing potted plants to 34 Main St between 26th June and 3rd July; setting up the plant stall at 10am, and running it from 11am to 4pm on 3rd July.

6. Enhancements to highway verges

a) Water trough planter

Carlton PC was planning to move a disused water trough from the Cemetery Field to the highway verge at the junction of Main St and Bosworth Rd for use as a decorative planter and to discourage vehicles from parking on the verge. A licence application had been approved by LCC Highways, a local farmer had agreed to move the trough, and local residents had offered to help with the planting and maintenance of the planter.

It was resolved that a small working party meet at 2pm on Friday 18th March to free and jack up the trough so it was ready to be moved, and that once in position the trough be filled with a base layer of pea gravel overlain with topsoil from the Cemetery.

b) Village nameplates

It was resolved that a clump of 'Carlton' daffodils be planted at the base of each street nameplate.

7. Financial report

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

		£.p	
1.4.2021	Balance brought forward from previous statement	+	273.37
9.12.21	Grass seed and turf for churchyard	-	86.75
15.12.21	Wild flower seeds for churchyard	-	11.50
26.2.22	Hawthorn whips for CDJO	-	12.00
16.3.2022	Balance carried forward	+	163.12

8. Works carried out since the last meeting

The Chairman reported that the CGG has 22 members who provided a total of 180.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (23 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (146.5 hours) and other places (11 hours) during 2021. Enid Morgan and Tania & Bill Sharp kindly provided refreshments for working parties.

Diamond Jubilee Orchard

The revised mowing regime had worked well, with fewer clippings requiring removal and disposal. The meadow areas had been cut at the end of June, and the dry hay had been burned on site in July.

The specimen holly at the end of the Barton Rd hedge had been cut off by the verge mower (which had also mashed up the steel guard net) and was growing back from the stump.

The chestnut logs next to the picnic table had been cut up; some had been stacked on site for invertebrates; the rest had been stacked in a local conservation woodland. A bench made from recycled timber had been erected next to the picnic table.

The grass strip between the hedge and the path had been mowed and this had improved the appearance of the area.

The toddlers play equipment had been painted, and additional playbark installed. Horsetails in the hedge bottom had been bruised and then sprayed with Roundup, and this appeared to have killed them. The operation would need to be repeated at other problem sites.

The northern hedge had been laid in February 2022.

Churchyard and Cemetery

Spoil from excavations for the church extension had been used to level up (i) a sunken area in the churchyard in front of the church; (ii) footpath S69 where it left the cemetery field; and (iii) areas near the extension at the side of the church tower and behind the church where new inspection chambers had been installed.

The root of the coppiced rowan tree, together with those of the dead cherry tree and two other stumps had been removed and the sites levelled up.

Contractors had laid a new path from Main St to the church door, and had partly restored the banks; the restoration work had been completed by the CGG.

Three leaning slate gravestones had been straightened up, and a broken memorial recovered from the base of a demolished lean-to shed behind the church tower had been erected against the wall of 28 Main St.

Brambles and an elder sapling had been removed from an Irish yew in front of the church.

Ivy had been removed from the weeping silver birch tree in front of the church. Dead wood had been removed from this tree, and two low branches had been removed from the copper beech at the back of the church.

The cemetery paths had been repaired and extended by a contractor in November.

Little Lane

The wild cherry trees are overhanging the neighbouring property, and it had been agreed that these would be cut back in a joint operation. This work had been postponed because of Covid-19 restrictions on group working.

Roadside hedges

The oak tree at Harry's Grave had been watered during dry spells and now appeared healthy. The decapitated oak tree on the W side of Barton Road had been pruned and was growing on well. Both new trees had been marked with hazard tape in the autumn and had survived hedge trimming in 2021. In addition one branch from a holly bush in the hedge was being promoted to form a new hedgerow tree.

Carlton Green

There had been no work on Carlton Greens.

Other sites

A disease-resistant elm tree (*Ulmus minor* var *vulgaris* 'Upper Swell') had been donated to the PC and planted next to footpath S69 at the northern boundary of the parish by kind permission of the landowner. An article about this tree had been published in Aspect in April. The sapling had struggled at first, but had been mulched and then watered through the summer and had survived. It will need to be monitored for another year.

An information board had been erected in the garden of The Gate Hangs Well.

It was resolved that the annual report to Carlton PC comprise information from items 2-4 and 8 of these minutes.

9. Forward work programme

A draft forward work programme had been copied to all members before the meeting, and this was discussed and amended.

It was resolved that the amended work programme be adopted and appended to the minutes.

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

The meeting closed at 20:00 hrs.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Abbreviations used in these minutes

DJO	Diamond Jubilee Orchard	CGG	Carlton Gardening Group
LCC	Leicestershire County Council	NLG	Northfields Liaison Group
PC	Parish Council	PCC	Parochial Church Council

Carlton Gardening Group

Forward work programme 2022

Spring

- Orchard Please pot up any spare plants for plant stall at Garden Open Day.
Cut inner side of Barton Rd hedge and dispose of brash.
Monitor weeds (particularly horsetails) in paths and Nailstone Rd holly hedge and spray if and when necessary. Spray round fruit trees.
Remove brambles.
Check whether shrubs along board fences need wire or tying up.
Measure where additional spring bulbs will need to be planted in the autumn.
Prune Shackerstone apple and sessile oak.
PC to consider maintenance of northern hedge.
- Churchyard Monitor bramble regrowth in cleared areas and spot treat as necessary.
Install weep holes and drainage behind churchyard retaining wall.
Level, cultivate and sow grass in area around new trees.
Check re-seeded areas around new extension and level up if necessary.
Cultivate and sow wild flowers in strip next to fence to 34 Main St.
- Cemetery Set out grave spaces in new burial area next to new path.
Little Lane Cut back wild cherry trees overhanging Glebe Farm outbuildings.
Control bramble growth in bare area near seat.
- Roadside Install old water trough in Main St verge and plant up.

Summer

- July 3rd Plant stall at Gardens Open Day.
- Orchard Cut/remove weeds from woodland areas.
Prune plum and damson trees (June).
Clear hay from meadow.
Rebuild Nailstone Rd reptile refuge.
Treat park bench seat timbers with tung oil and picnic table with preservative.
Lay new playbark in Toddlers Play Area.
- Churchyard Monitor Platinum Jubilee trees and water when necessary. Strim off and remove cuttings from wild flower strip.
- Roadsides Monitor new oak tree at Harry's Grave and water if necessary.
- Other Monitor new elm tree at Manor House Farm and water if necessary.

Autumn

- 27th August Horticultural & Produce Show
- Orchard Cut Barton Rd hedge; autumn weeding clear-up.
Consider entering fruit in Horticultural Show. Prune apple, pear and non-fruit trees. Plant additional bulbs
- Churchyard Remove/treat any new ivy growth on weeping silver birch.
- Cemetery Consider levelling spoil heap near new path.
- Roadsides Plant clumps of 'Carlton' daffodils around village nameplates.

- Winter** Rest and recuperate.