

# Carlton Gardening Group

*Multorum manibus magnum levatur onus*

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held at Home Farm House, 7 Main Street, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March  
2024

**Present:** Mick Vann (Chairman), Judith Boston, Mike Hague-Morgan, Graham Jackson, Jeanette Knappett, Bill Sharp, Stuart & CJ Tupling, Chris Peat (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Liz & Tom Alun-Jones, Franco Onesti, John Piggon, Ian Sarson, Keith Scott, Tania Sharp, John Storer.

## **1. Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

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**

Mick Vann **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. Royal Horticultural Society *It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme***

The Group had entered this scheme in 2023, and had been awarded a *Thriving – Level 4* Certificate together with garden centre gift vouchers for £15. The assessment of the site had been copied to the EC: key observations were the slow establishment of the holly hedge along Nailstone Rd and the lack of information on site about the local heritage fruit trees. Suggestions were to try to engage more local people with events in the site and to explore how more edibles could be added. The CDJO and CGG have been added to the RHS Local Group on-line map. It was noted that the CDJO would be 10 years old in 2025.

**It was resolved** that re-entry to the IYN Scheme be deferred until 2025, by which time the new trough should have become established, the holly hedge improved and visitor information about the CDJO added to the QR Code link.

## **6. Financial report**

All expenditure is reported in the Parish Council's quarterly financial statements under the Carlton Gardening Group Earmarked Fund. Expenses in 2023 for works in the churchyard and cemetery and tree plantings were met directly by Carlton PC.

			£.p
1.4.2023	Balance brought forward from previous statement	+	151.12
17.8.23	Daffodil bulbs	-	91.45
<b>25.3.24</b>	<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>59.67</b>

The above figure is correct; the balance of £60.07 reported in PC Reports 2023-15 and 2024-01 results from a typographic error.

## **7. Review of progress since the last meeting**

The Chairman reported that there were 20 individuals on the Group email list, of whom 16 had joined working parties in the past year. Group members had provided a total of 127.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (45.5 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (46.0 hours) and highway verges and RoW (36.0 hours) during 2023.

The work in the Churchyard and Cemetery included putting up and taking down the Christmas lights (18 hours). Tania & Bill Sharp **were thanked** for providing generous 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 wet cuttings removed for composting in a local wood.

The specimen holly at the end of the Barton Rd hedge had been repeatedly cut off by the verge mower and was dead.

The grass strip between the hedge and the path had been mowed and this had improved the appearance of the area. Additional clumps of spring bulbs had been planted in this area, and were making a good show.

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 cut by Group members in February 2023, and then cut by the PC's contractor in November.

Tree T37 (Bramley cooking apple) had blown over due to poor root growth, and had been replaced with a dwarf tree of the same variety.

Surplus soil from behind the churchyard wall had been spread in a low area near to Barton Rd, and planted with bulbs.

The two sessile oak (*Q.petraea*) whips were both growing, but the leading shoot of the one next to the northern hedge had been accidentally cut off during hedge trimming.

Additional playpark had been laid in the TPA, and the equipment painted, though the paint supplied by Wicksteed was very watery and the colour faint.

The seats and picnic table had been treated with preservative, and the picnic table had been strengthened with new bolts.

Both timber gateposts at the contractors entrance had rotted and had been replaced with galvanised steel. The slamming post had been concreted into the original concrete base; the massive concrete base for the hanging post had been dug out by Mr R Wyatt with his JCB. The wooden gate was a non-standard size, so the hanging post had not been concreted in to allow for a steel gate to be installed when the wooden gate required replacement.

### **Churchyard and Cemetery**

Concrete slabs had been laid on the western side of the church tower.

Soil had been removed from behind the eastern half of the churchyard retaining wall to reduce the pressure on the wall. The bulge in the wall and movement were being monitored by the PC.

The Coronation of King Charles III had been marked by the planting of an *Amelanchier 'La Paloma'* by Claire Harris who had been a member of the Carlton 1<sup>st</sup> Brownie Pack which planted trees to mark the Silver Jubilee in 1977. (The *Carpinus* bought for this site had died and had been replaced by the supplier (Bluebell Arboretum, Smisby).

The laurel hedge next to the retaining wall had been thinned with the help of the neighbour to prevent damage to the wall. The neighbour wished the hedge to remain high because it provided a screen.

### **Little Lane**

There had been no works in Little Lane.

### **Roadside hedges**

The two oak trees and one promoted holly on the east side of Barton Road were healthy and growing on well.

The oak whip (*Q.petraea*) in the corner of the field next to footpath S47 at Harry's Grave had been watered and was growing on well.

The two yellow willow cuttings planted on the eastern side of Congerstone Road near the junction with Congerstone Lane had died and had been replaced.

### **Carlton Green**

There had been no work on Carlton Greens.

## Other sites

The Golden Jubilee Post had been treated with tung oil.  
The concrete trough at the eastern end of Main St had been planted up, watered and maintained, and the surrounding area of grass verge mowed.  
Clumps of daffodils (variety 'Carlton') had been planted in grass verges outside Woodmill in Congerstone Lane, outside 59 and 97 Main St, outside Park View Farm in Bosworth Rd, next to the lime tree on the east side of Bosworth Rd, around the trough planter at the east end of Main St, outside Carlton Gate and Holly Cottage on Barton Rd, and at Harry's Grave.

**It was resolved** that the annual report to Carlton PC comprise information from items 2-5 and 7 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 one or two working parties be arranged for evenings and weekends so that members who were not retired would have chance to take part.

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

Chris & Irene Peat **were thanked** for providing refreshments and hosting the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:35 hrs.

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

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

### Abbreviations used in these minutes

CDJO	Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard	CGG	Carlton Gardening Group
H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	IYN	It's Your Neighbourhood
NLG	Northfields Liaison Group	PC	Parish Council
RoW	Rights of Way		

# Carlton Gardening Group

## Forward work programme 2024

### Spring

Garden Open Day for National Gardens Scheme – May 12<sup>th</sup>

- Orchard Monitor weeds in paths and Nailstone Rd holly hedge and spray when necessary. Spray round fruit trees.  
Dig out brambles  
Check whether shrubs along board fences need wire or tying up.  
Remove rotting timber posts (and concrete if possible) from Barton Road entrance, replace with galvanised drinking trough and plant up trough with herbs. Use surplus pea gravel from churchyard and clean path in front of church.
- Churchyard Monitor all 4 new trees and water as necessary.  
Monitor bramble regrowth in cleared areas and spot treat as necessary.  
Plant *Geranium* and *Polygonatum* along fence adj 34 Main St.
- Cemetery Remove fencing prior to installation of new fence by contractor (done).
- Little Lane Control bramble growth in bare area near seat.  
Cut back holly bushes to keep path clear; check overhanging branches.  
Help remove silver birch trees and cut back bird cherry near to workshop building.  
Plant wild garlic and ground ivy in bare ground to north of information board.
- Roadsides Dead head all daffodils, sow poppy seeds.  
Consult Nailstone PC about planting of trees in verge on Lount Rd.

### Summer

- Orchard Monitor two new oak trees and water as necessary.  
Cut/remove weeds from woodland areas.  
Prune plum and damson trees (June).  
Clear hay from meadow.  
Treat park bench seat timbers with tung oil and picnic table with Preservative; re paint play equipment – seek advice about breathable paint for timber.
- Churchyard Monitor all 4 new trees and water when necessary.
- Roadsides Monitor new oak tree at Harry's Grave and water as necessary.
- Other Monitor new elm tree at Manor House Farm and water as necessary.

### Autumn

- Orchard Cut Barton Rd hedge; autumn weeding clear-up.  
Consider entering fruit in Horticultural Show.  
Prune apple, pear and non-fruit trees.  
Make up ground level and plant field maple in gap in Barton Road hedge  
Sow yellow rattle seeds in wildflower areas.
- Churchyard Remove/treat any new ivy growth on weeping silver birch.
- Roadsides Trim hedges around roadside trees to avoid beheading by mechanical hedgecutters.

### Winter

Rest and recuperate.