

CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Saint Andrew's Church, Main Street, Carlton
at 19:30 hrs on Wednesday 27th July 2016

Present: S G Tupling (Chairman), J H Boston, J D Finch, I Sarson (Councillors),
I D Ould (County Councillor), M Cook (Borough Councillor), C J Peat (Clerk).

1. Administrative matters

a) Apologies for absence from Councillors

It was resolved that an apology from Cllr Sharp be accepted.

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 8th June 2016

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

Cllr Sharp reported that the PCC had received a complaint from LCC Highways that the footway on the southern side of Main St next to the kissing gate into the churchyard was obstructed by ivy. The ivy had been removed; the adjacent fencing needed repair.

Cllr Boston reported that some vehicles parked on drives in Main St had been opened and storage compartments rifled through. There were rumours that some items had been stolen.

b) Leicestershire County Council

Cllr I D Ould had received a written complaint about obstruction and poor visibility at the junction of Main St and Shackerstone Walk (p.1600/4 refers).

Cllr Ould reported on current LCC business and expressed concern at the escalating costs being imposed on LCC by government policies on accepting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

c) Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Cllr M Cook reported on current H&BBC business. A Town Centres' Vision had just been published, which included improvements to car parking in Market Bosworth and improved access between the Ashby Canal and the Marina and Water Park.

The installation of LED bulbs in street lights had been discussed at the Highways Forum, which would eventually result in savings of £4m pa. These bulbs would shine very brightly for the first few days of operation, but would then settle down to give a similar level of illumination as the existing tubes.

d) Carlton Neighbourhood Watch group

Ms R Yule had reported that there had been no crimes recorded in Carlton in May.

e) Parish Clerk

Market Bosworth parking restrictions – LCC Highways had proposed no waiting at any time (i) on both sides of Barton Rd around the corner outside Home Farm; (ii) on both sides of the road at the northern end of Sutton Lane; (iii) along the southern side of Station Road opposite the Library; and to extend the no waiting time to 8am to 6pm on both sides of Station Road between the Market Place and the zebra crossing. The PC had expressed concern about highway safety in locations (i) and (ii) in 2009 and 2015 (p.1284/10b; 1572/3a refer), and had written in support of these proposals.

Congerstone Lane - the overgrown hedge had been cut back (p.1600/4; 1616/3a refer).

Buften bus stop – a bus driver had questioned a request from a passenger to be dropped off at Buften. Local residents had advised that this had been a request stop for many years, but the flag sign had disappeared. LCC had been asked to put up a new flag sign.

Battery recycling – the battery collection container had disappeared from the former BT telephone kiosk. H&BBC had been asked to provide a replacement.

RCC Village Achievement Awards – the assessment visit in the CDJO had been attended by Cllrs Sarson and Sharp, and the Clerk on 23rd June. The awards ceremony would be held at Welbeck College, Woodhouse on 20th October. **It was resolved** that the PC be represented by the Chairman and Clerk.

Road markings – the road markings identified as in need of attention on Main St, Barton Rd, Buften Lane and Nailstone Rd in Report 2016-06 had been renewed. Those on Carlton Rd were still in poor condition.

CDJO – the wildflower meadow had been mowed for the first time on 11th July, and the clippings raked off by CGG volunteers on 15th July.

Combined Authority – covering all of the “functional economic area” of Leicester & Leicestershire (City, County, 7 District Councils and the LLEP) is expected to come into being in Dec 2016 and will focus on transport, skills and strategic planning. A Strategic Growth Plan will be put together in three stages – statement (Aug 2016), draft (summer 2017) and final (early 2018).

Parishes Forum – the Clerk had represented the PC at a meeting on 23rd June; the minutes would be copied to Councillors on receipt. Mr C Parsons (Leics Fire & Rescue) had reported on the work of the Service, which had attended 33 accidental domestic fires in the Borough in the past year. The last 3 fire fatalities had been in rural locations and involved elderly people. Over the past decade there had been a reduction of 46% in fire fatalities; 88% of properties now had a working smoke alarm; people aged over 65 were twice as likely to die in a fire as younger people; the Fire Service would carry out a fire risk assessment of any domestic property free of charge. **It was resolved** that an article about fire safety be prepared for the next issue of Carlton News.

Ms G Dennis (H&BBC Planning) had reported that following a recent decision of the High Court, H&BBC was no longer able to request s106 Developer Contributions on developments of less than 10 dwellings. The Clerk had noted that this would have a severe and disproportionate impact on small rural PCs where most new housing developments were small, and had suggested that H&BBC might consider forwarding the relevant New Homes Bonus Funding to the local council for new developments of less than 10 dwellings. **It was resolved** that this proposal be endorsed by the PC. **It was also resolved** that a letter be sent to the Prime Minister with a copy to the local MP expressing concern about the impact of this policy on small communities.

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

There were none.

4. Annual independent survey report on the Toddlers Play Area

The inspection had been scheduled to take place in July, but the report had not yet been received. **It was resolved** that this item be deferred.

5. Neighbourhood Planning and the roll-forward of the Local Plan

The current Local Plan covered the period 2006-2026, and work had begun on rolling this forward to 2031 or 2036 (p.1613/4d refers). The Core Strategy had been adopted in 2009, and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies had been adopted in July 2016. Extracts of the most relevant policies in these two documents had been copied to Councillors. Carlton is defined as a rural hamlet where development will be confined to infill housing development, local choice schemes and the conversion of agricultural buildings. The countryside and community facilities are protected from development, and Local Plan policies cover design, infrastructure, transport, green space, tourism, and local needs.

Members had followed the preparation of the Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan (NP), and were well aware that the preparation of a NP would be expensive and time-consuming. Permitted development rights would not be affected by a NP, which also had to be compliant with the NPPF and the Local Plan, and would have to be regularly updated.

The aspirations of the PC were discussed, with particular reference to those requiring the acquisition or use of land such as the provision of a playing field, public open space, village hall and allotments, starter homes, retirement homes, and the creation of a safe path and/or cycleway to Market Bosworth (Carlton Parish Plan 2011). These objectives could be achieved under existing planning policies without a NP. The designation of land for particular uses was integral to a NP, and this could not provide the flexibility required by the PC.

In the context of the existing policies of the Local Plan, there did not appear to be any benefit in preparing a NP for Carlton at the present time. The position might change if the LPA embarked on a fundamental revision of the Local Plan, or proposed to allocate land outside the Carlton settlement boundary for new development.

The consensus view was that the optimum strategy would be to liaise closely with the LPA Forward Planning team, and to seek to ensure that Local Plan policies continued to support the PC's aspirations and remained robust and appropriate for rural hamlets without a Neighbourhood Plan.

It was resolved that the PC would not begin preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan at this time, but would closely monitor the revision and updating of the Local Plan.

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

16/00614/HOU Single storey front and rear extension, Drovers Barn, Shackerstone Walk. PC had no objections.

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).

16/00532/FUL Extension to existing office building, 36 Main Street. PC recognised success of local business, but objected on grounds that the site access had not been constructed in accordance with an earlier consent, was not adequate for the proposed use, and was not capable of accommodating low loader vehicles; there did not appear to be enough car parking spaces on the site; and further intensification of use was likely to be detrimental to local residential amenity. PC drew attention to previous complaints about this development; noted possible errors and inconsistencies in the application; requested conditions on (i) opening hours, (ii) unloading of heavy plant, (iii) screening and tree planting, and (iv) security lighting.

c) Planning applications determined

16/00437/CLUE Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of former agricultural land to be incorporated within the residential curtilage. Westfields Farm Cottage, Carlton Rd. Certificate granted.

7. Report 2016-18: Quarterly financial report

It was resolved that Report 2016-18 be approved.

8. Next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting be held at 19:30 hrs on Wednesday 14th September 2016 at Saint Andrews Church, Main Street, Carlton.

The meeting closed at 2055 hrs.

Signed _____

Date _____

Abbreviations used in these minutes

CDJO	Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard	CGG	Carlton Gardening Group
H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council	LCC	Leicestershire County Council
LDF	Local Development Framework	LPA	Local Planning Authority
NP	Neighbourhood Plan	NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PC	Parish Council		