

Carlton Gardening Group

Multorum manibus magnum levatur onus

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at 77 Main Street, Carlton at 19:30 hrs on Monday 20th March 2017

Present: Franco Onesti (Chairman), Graham Jackson, Jeanette Knappett, John Piggon, Ian Sarson (PC Rep), Bill Sharp, Stuart Tupling, Chris Peat (Secretary).

Apologies: Enid Morgan, Keith Scott, Mike Vann.

1. Minutes of the meeting of Monday 4th April 2016

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

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

Graham Jackson, Jeanette Knappett, Franco Onesti, Bill Sharp & 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

Franco Onesti **was elected** Chairman, and Chris Peat **was elected** Secretary by members of the Executive Committee.

4. Appointment of representative to the Northfields Liaison Group

Members of the Executive Committee **resolved that** Franco Onesti be appointed CGG representative on the Northfields Liaison Group.

5. Financial report

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

5.3.16	Balance brought forward from previous statement	+	278.83
6.5	Roundup gel	-	8.32
9.5	2 x <i>Cotoneaster</i>	-	4.00
20.5	2 x <i>Ajuga reptans</i> (Bugle)	-	2.00
31.5	Grass seed	-	7.00
3.1	Bark chips	-	4.13
6.1	Holly whips for Nailstone Rd hedge	-	43.74
20.3.17	Balance carried forward	+	209.64

6. Progress since the last meeting

The CGG currently had 22 members, but some had not attended any working parties or meetings. **It was resolved** that these members be asked whether they wished to continue as members of the Group.

During 2016, 13 members of the CGG provided a total of 85.5 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (48 hours), and in the Churchyard and Cemetery (37.5 hours). No trees or shrubs had died, trees had been pruned as necessary, some tree stakes, ties and tubes had been removed, mature ferns (kindly donated by Market Bosworth Parish Council) had been imported, a holly hedge had been planted along the Nailstone Road boundary, a specimen holly had been planted at the southern end of the Barton Road hedge, and shrubs had been planted next to the boarded fences and marked by stakes.

The daffodils in the Nailstone Rd verge had turned out not to be the variety 'Carlton', and only about half of those planted had survived because of lorry damage.

A guided tour of the Orchard had been held at 6pm on Friday 10th June 2016, with a display of the wild flowers on the site. The event had been attended by 6 members of the CGG, but had been brief because of a torrential rainstorm which had begun at exactly 6 pm.

The project had come second in the RCC Village Achievement Awards competition.

NCHA was proposing to replace the three areas of wild flower planting at the Barton Road entrance to Northfields with beds of *Lonicera*, *Lavendula*, and *Viburnum davidii*.

The wildflower meadow areas had exhibited a striking succession of flowers and grasses from April to June, but the growth had been very vigorous and tall, and plants had hung over the paths. Mowing and raking up the clippings and disposing of them had proved very difficult because of the thick stems, wet weather and volume of material. The PCs maintenance contract had been revised for 2017 to include regular mowing of a strip along each side of the path, and spraying along the bottom of the boarded fences. It was hoped that the meadow would gradually stabilise and the amount of growth reduce as the turf developed and the soil became less fertile.

The north hedge had not been kept clear of weeds because volunteers had not been available when the weather was suitable for spraying. For similar reasons, weed growth in the woodland areas had not been controlled early in the season, making these areas look unsightly and neglected, and requiring the weed growth to be cut back in October.

In the Churchyard and Cemetery a top soil storage area had been installed, spoil moved and ground levelled, and overgrown and invasive shrubs and brambles cut back. The brambles were expected to try to grow back in the spring, and the new growth would need to be sprayed out before grass seed was sown.

Work in 2017 would be focussed on path surfacing in the Orchard and Little Lane, weed control in the Orchard, and bramble control and shrub management in the Churchyard and Cemetery.

7. Forward work programme

The Diamond Jubilee Orchard had been inspected in the afternoon before the meeting. The **wildflower meadow** looked luxuriant, a strip along the path edge had been mowed, and there appeared to be more grass than last year, though a few scattered docks needed spot treatment; wild daffodils were scattered through the meadow and about half were in flower; both clumps of fritillaries had flowered in 2016 but the stems are hard to spot in the grass and only a few had been visible. The **fruit trees** were all healthy, but those near the park bench seat were not growing very vigorously. The **shrubs** all looked healthy, with buds now bursting, though three privet had blown over. Within the **woodland areas** cyclamen had flowered; celandines and wood anemones had multiplied since last year and were coming into flower; primroses and dog's mercury were in flower; wood spurge and yellow flags looked healthy; bluebells were coming into leaf; wild garlic and woodruff could not be found; ferns were still dormant. The **spring bulbs** – snowdrops, aconites, and crocuses - had flowered and were now over, but the clumps of purple crocuses had made a stunning display; the dwarf daffodils were in flower; the daffodils in the Nailstone Rd verge had been disturbed by building work but were in bud. The **north hedge** was coming into leaf, but appeared to have a couple of significant gaps and needed weeding or spraying. The **box hedge** was healthy. The **Nailstone Rd holly hedge** was healthy and weed-free after spraying earlier in the year. The **Barton Rd refuge** had naturalised well and the rotting logs had lots of holes, at least 2 kinds of moss, and King Alfred's cakes fungi. The **Bug Hotel** was in good condition.

A concrete edging strip had been laid along the whole of the highway boundary with Nailstone Rd, presumably by NCHA.

The Churchyard and Cemetery had also been inspected in the afternoon before the meeting. The clumps of daffodils were in flower, but those in front of the church were being shaded out by the yew trees. An old planting of *Cyclamen coum* under the *Cercis siliquastrum* (Judas Tree) by the gate had seeded widely and was making a very attractive display.

It was suggested that more *Cyclamen* be planted in the recently cleared ground under the holly trees both behind and in front of the church: this was supported.

It was suggested that greater efforts be made to interest more villagers, and particularly children, in the CGG, gardening, and wildlife. Previous attempts to achieve this had failed, and the children's classes in the annual Horticultural Show attracted few entries, though there had been some stunning individual items over the years. Jeanette Knappett kindly offered to try to come up with a relevant activity for a stall at the 2017 Church Fete, Chris Peat agreed to prepare a display about the work of the CGG for the Horticultural Show, and Bill Sharp noted that suggestions for the young people's classes in the Horticultural Show would be welcomed.

It was suggested that working parties might be held at the same time and on the same day each week – for example at 11 am on Fridays so as to end with the start of the weekly coffee morning – but this was not supported because some active members had other commitments at this time. The idea of individuals working alone was rejected, as working in a group with like-minded people was one of the main attractions of the CGG.

It was agreed to hold more frequent but shorter working parties, with the immediate aim of keeping on top of the weeding during the vital spring months.

Those present expressed their appreciation of the refreshments provided to working parties by Enid Morgan and Tania Sharp.

A draft forward work programme had been copied to all members before the meeting, and **it was resolved** that this be adopted with minor changes to accord with the discussion minuted above. A copy is appended to these minutes.

8. Annual Report for Carlton Parish Council

It was resolved that the annual report to the PC comprise the text of item 6 above and the forward work programme.

The meeting closed at 2100 hrs.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Abbreviations used in these minutes

CDJO	Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard
CGG	Carlton Gardening Group
H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
NCHA	Nottingham Community Housing Association
PC	Carlton Parish Council
RCC	Rural Community Council

Group membership on 4th April 2016

a) Executive Committee

Graham Jackson*, Jeanette Knappett*, Franco Onesti*, Chris Peat*, Ian Sarson*
(*Carlton PC member*), Bill Sharp*

b) Members

Liz Alun-Jones	Tom Alun-Jones
Judith Boston	David Branson
Douglas Kinghorn	Dave Knappett
Pat Lockwood	Enid Morgan*
John Piggon*	Keith Scott*
Tania Sharp*	Jo Spencer
Stuart Tupling*	C J Tupling*
Michael Vann*	Abi Wright

* Members who attended working parties during 2016

Carlton Gardening Group

Forward work programme

2016

Completed work:	2 nd Jan	Orch	Importing woodland plants
	28 th Feb	Orch	Planting <i>Cyclamen</i>
	5 th April	Orch	Planting holly
	21 st April	Orch	Weeding
	25 th April	Orch	Planting
	23 rd May	Orch	Weeding
	10 th June	Orch	Guided walk and wild flower identification
	15 th July	Orch	Raking grass cuttings from wildflower meadow
	12 th Sept	Orch	Planting shrubs along fences
	15 th Sept	Orch	Cutting weeds
	27 th Sept	Cem	Grave and soil levelling, tree works
	6 th Oct	Cem	Installation of topsoil store, shrub pruning, bonfire
	10 th Oct	Cem	Shrub pruning, burning brash
	11 th Oct	Cem	Levelling ground, sowing grass seed
	17 th Oct	Orch	Cutting weeds in woodland areas
	20 th Oct		Attendance at RCC Village Achievement Awards
	10 th Nov	Orch	Transplanting ferns from Market Bosworth
	16 th Nov	Orch	Trimming Barton Road hedge, weeding

2017

February

Lay bark chips along box hedge

Survey and clean Barton Rd and north hedges, plant holly in any gaps

March

PC's contractor will mow path edges and grass under Shackerstone apple tree through year, and maintain weed-free strip along bottom of boarded fence

Move hedgehog box and transplant ferns from corner of boarded fence adj no.10

Transplant holly whips from gardens into gaps in Barton Road hedge.

Spray out weeds around all trees, and in path and parking areas

Cut brambles from under shrubs in Cemetery and then spray out new shoots

April

PC to organise s106 funding and project to surface CDJO path, vehicular access and Little Lane path.

Wildflowers in meadow flower April – June

Carry out weeding as necessary in woodland areas

Check whether shrubs along board fences need wire or tying up

Draft article about the CGG for May issue of Carlton News

May

Spray around shrub and fruit trees

Maintain weed-free environment along north hedge, Barton Rd hedges

Repeat spray around shrubs and fruit trees as necessary

Consider removal of all remaining stakes and tubes from woodland areas

June

Consider repair of Nailstone Rd reptile & amphibian refuge

Spray out weeds around all trees

July

Second cut of wildflower meadows by contractor. CGG to rake up clippings.

After this, meadow will be maintained by contractor at 25mm height for rest of season, with clippings removed to compost bins.

August

Consider ordering additional bulbs - ? cyclamen under holly tree in Churchyard;
? snowdrops in highway verge under Nailstone Road hedge

Inspect and weed if necessary, maintain weed-free environment round all trees

? pick first fruit and ?enter in Horticultural Show

Treat park bench seat timbers and picnic table with tung oil

Make display about work of CGG for Horticultural Show.

September

Examine shrubs in Cemetery – remove/spray out any brambles, consider additional pruning

October

Final cut of wildflower meadow to 25mm by contractor

Tree planting – *Quercus petraea* in roadside hedges if PC grant application successful

November

Trim Nailstone Rd and north hedges

December

C J Peat

Secretary - Carlton Gardening Group

20th March 2017