

# 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 Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Present:** Graham Jackson (Chairman), Tom Alun-Jones, Judith & Paul Boston, Ian Sarson, Bill Sharp, Mick Vann, Chris Peat (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Liz Alun-Jones, Robin Arnold, Enid Morgan, Franco Onesti, John Piggon, Keith Scott, John Storer, C J & Stuart Tupling,

## **1. Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

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**

**It was resolved** that the CDJO be entered into the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme, and that a kind offer from Liz Alun-Jones to prepare the application be accepted. Chris Peat noted that photographic documentation of the work carried out in the CDJO was available on the PC website.

## **6. Bus shelter Green Roof Project**

Carlton PC had agreed to consider an experimental scheme to install green roofing on the Barton Road bus shelter. A site meeting to consider the proposed installation and loadings had been arranged for 10:30hrs on 6<sup>th</sup> April in The Gate car park. Tom Alun-Jones proposed that the Gardening Group apply for Coronation grant funding from H&BBC to support this project. Chris Peat had been advised that this grant scheme was now closed, but the H&BBC website stated that applications would be accepted until 4<sup>th</sup> April.

**It was resolved** that enquiries be made, and that if the grant scheme was still open an application be submitted for the cost of the green roofing materials plus the Coronation tree plantings planned by Carlton PC.

## **7. Financial report**

All expenditure is reported in the Parish Council's quarterly financial statements under the Carlton Gardening Group Earmarked Fund. Expenses in 2022 for works in the churchyard and cemetery and tree plantings were met directly by Carlton PC.

£.p

1.4.2022	Balance brought forward from previous statement	+	163.12
26.32.22	Hawthorn whips for gap in DJO hedge	-	12.00
<b>30.3.22</b>	<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>151.12</b>

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

The Chairman reported that the CGG has 22 members who provided a total of 205.75 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (29.50 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (108.5 hours), Little Lane (21.50 hrs) and other places (46.25 hours) during 2022. Enid Morgan and Tania & Bill Sharp had kindly provided refreshments for working parties.

The activities in other places included cleaning and sealing the stone floor in the Community Hub, planting spring bulbs around the village, and putting up and taking down Christmas lights in the churchyard. **It was agreed** that the amount of work carried out in the church and churchyard be reported to the PCC.

### **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 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.

Bird spikes had been installed on the swing cross bar to prevent bird droppings fouling the swing seats.

Additional playbark had been laid in the TPA.

The seats and picnic table had been treated with preservative.

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, and was trimmed by volunteers in February 2023. In future this hedge would be cut annually by the contractor.

The box hedge had been trimmed for the first time in February 2023 and was shaping up well.

Surplus soil from work in the churchyard had been used to level up a small area next to the Barton Road hedge.

Two sessile oak (*Q.petraea*) whips had been planted – one next to the northern hedge, one next to the Barton Road hedge.

### **Churchyard and Cemetery**

The roots of the dead flowering cherry and rowan trees near the church gate had been removed.

The banks next to the church path had been graded and turfed.

Weep holes had been drilled in the western part of the churchyard retaining wall, and pea gravel and a field drain pipe had been laid behind the wall to introduce drainage and prevent soil heave.

Three trees - *Malus* 'Red Jewel', Japanese rowan (*Sorbus commixta*) 'Embley' and a Chinese hornbeam (*Carpinus omeiensis*), had been planted in the churchyard to mark the Platinum Jubilee. An article about the planting ceremony is available from the PC website.

The heap of spoil next to the new path in the Cemetery had been levelled and seeded. A new area of grave spaces had been laid out.

### **Little Lane**

The wild cherry trees overhanging the neighbouring property had been cut back in May, and other low trees and shrubs cut back from overhanging the path.

### **Roadside hedges**

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

One oak whip (*Q.petraea*) had been planted in the corner of the field next to footpath S47 at Harry's Grave by kind permission of the landowner.

Two yellow willow cuttings had been planted on the eastern side of Congerstone Road near the junction with Congerstone Lane (replacing two dead alder trees).

### **Carlton Green**

There had been no work on Carlton Greens.

## Other sites

A disused concrete water trough had been installed on the grass verge at the Main Street/Barton Road junction, planted up, and maintained.

The disease-resistant elm tree (*Ulmus minor* var *vulgaris* 'Upper Swell') next to footpath S69 had been kept watered during the drought and had survived, although it had not made any new growth. This tree will need monitoring for another year.

The Golden Jubilee Post had been treated with tung oil.

**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 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 a plan of the village be copied to members so that they could mark where additional clumps of daffodils might be planted in the autumn.

**It was resolved** that the feasibility of the following projects (each of which would require the agreement of the landowner) be investigated:

- (i) enhancing the highway verge on the western side of Congerstone Road between Carlton Road and Nanny Sands Corner;
- (ii) restoring an old field pond next to public footpath S50 in the NE corner of the field to the east of The Gate Hangs Well;
- (iii) planting a small copse on uncultivated land on the southern side of footpath S75 near the stream crossing.

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

Graham Jackson **was thanked** for providing refreshments and hosting the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:20 hrs.

**Signed**

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**Date**

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### Abbreviations used in these minutes

DJO	Diamond Jubilee Orchard	CGG	Carlton Gardening Group
H&BBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council		
LCC	Leicestershire County Council	NLG	Northfields Liaison Group
PC	Parish Council	PCC	Parochial Church Council

# Carlton Gardening Group

## Forward work programme 2023

### 2023 - Forward work programme

#### Spring

Orchard	Monitor weeds in paths and Nailstone Rd holly hedge and spray if necessary. Spray round fruit trees. Check whether shrubs along board fences need wire or tying up. Measure and mark where additional spring bulbs will need to be planted in the autumn. Rebuild Nailstone Rd reptile refuge. Tidy up in preparation for <i>Its Your Neighbourhood</i> inspection.
Churchyard	Planting of <i>Carpinus fangiana</i> to mark Coronation – event to be arranged. Monitor all 4 new trees and water as necessary. Lay slabs at corner of church tower for dustbin. Monitor bramble regrowth in cleared areas and spot treat as necessary. Plant <i>Geranium</i> and <i>Polygonatum</i> along fence adj 34 Main St.
Little Lane	Control bramble growth in bare area near seat. Cut back holly bushes to keep path clear; check overhanging branches.
Other	Mark up maps of village with sites for extra daffodils.

#### 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.
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. Plant additional bulbs. 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. Plant additional clumps of daffodils.

#### Winter

Rest and recuperate.