

# Carlton Gardening Group

*Multorum manibus magnum levatur onus*

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held at Home Farm House, 7 Main Street, Carlton at 7pm  
on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Present:** Mick Vann (Chairman), Graham Jackson, John Piggon, Bill Sharp, John Storer, Stuart & CJ Tupling, Chris Peat (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Liz & Tom Alun-Jones, Judith & Paul Boston, Keith Scott, Franco Onesti, Ian Sarson, Tania Sharp.

## **1. Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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, Stuart Tupling, 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: the site assessment had commented on 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.

**It was resolved** that the CDJO be entered into the IYN Scheme.

## **6. Celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diamond Jubilee Orchard**

**It was noted** that the CDJO would be 10 years old in 2025. **It was resolved** that a display about the CDJO be prepared for the Carlton Church Fete.

## **7. Financial report**

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

The new trough at the Barton Road entrance was provided by the Parish Council; the herbs in it came from members gardens or were bought with the £15 garden voucher awarded by the IYN Scheme in 2023.

			£.p
25.3.2024	Balance brought forward from previous statement	+	59.67
13.4.2024	Replacement holly for Barton Rd entrance	-	10.82
27.3.2025	Balance carried forward	+	48.85
	Additional allocation from PC (from 1 April 2025)	+	51.15
	<b>Available funds</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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

The Chairman reported that there were 20 individuals on the Group email list, of whom 17 had joined working parties in the past year. Group members had provided a total of 100 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (20 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (40 hours), highway verges and RoW (36 hours) and Carlton Green (3 hrs) during 2023.

The work in the Churchyard and Cemetery included putting up and taking down the Christmas lights (15 hours). Volunteers from the Market Bosworth Rotary Club had kindly re-painted the steel benches on the East Green and in the Churchyard. 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 replaced and the new bush protected by a metal guard.

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 the PC's contractor in November.

Tree T37 (Bramley cooking apple). The replacement tree had established well.

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

The play equipment had been re-painted, with breathable paint kindly donated by a member.

The seats and picnic table had been treated with preservative.

A metal drinking trough had been installed at the Barton Road entrance and planted with herbs. The trough replaced timber posts which had rotted.

Snowdrops had been transplanted into the western border near to the path.

A hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) had grown up at the extreme eastern end of the northern site hedge, and had been damaged by the hedge trimmer. This tree had been pruned up for retention as a standard tree.

T53 holly between the electricity sub-station and the amphibian refuge had died.

T55 (*Malus* Red sentinel) had become bent over by wind and weight of fruit, and had been pulled upright and re-staked. This tree might need to be replaced if it did not stabilise.

The wide highway verge at the Nailstone Rd end of the site had become unkempt, and garden waste had been dumped on it. The Parish Council had asked their contractor to quote for mowing this area in future.

### **Churchyard and Cemetery**

The old post and wire fencing had been removed and disposed of by CDJO members.

A new fence had been installed by a contractor, and had been set back from the footpath.

Trees overhanging the footpath had been cut back, and the gradient of the path near the kissing gate had been reduced.

Snowdrops had been planted under the weeping birch tree, and cyclamen had been transplanted into the banks along the path.

Rotten parts of the chestnut tree had been moved to a nearby woodland area.

### **Little Lane**

One tree had been felled, and branches overhanging the neighbouring property had been cut back.

### **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 Greens**

The bench on the East Green had been repainted.

The pipe draining the ditch on the eastern side of the West Green had collapsed under Shackerstone Walk, leading to water backing up and flooding the road. The problem had been reported to Leics CC Highways in October 2022; repair works had been scheduled for 6 June 2025.

## 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 by a CGG volunteer.

Clumps of 'Carlton' daffodils planted in 2023 had come up again and were making a good display.

The elm tree planted at Manor House Farm was healthy and had developed epicormic shoots which had been pruned off to encourage it to develop as a standard tree.

**It was resolved** that the annual report to Carlton PC comprise information from items 2-3, 5-6 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 the amended work programme be adopted and appended to the minutes.

Chris Peat **was thanked** for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

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## 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 2025**

### **Spring**

Garden Open Day for National Gardens Scheme – 1<sup>st</sup> June

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|-------------|--|
| Orchard     | Transplant self-set holly trees into east hedge.<br>Plant sessile yew between electricity sub-station and reptile refuge for ground cover to replace T53.<br>Transplant Solomon's seal, hellebore and <i>Geranium</i> into unkempt area of western border near to path.<br>Monitor weeds in paths and Nailstone Rd holly hedge and spray when necessary. Spray round fruit trees.<br>Use or dispose of compost and reduce number of bins.<br>Dig out brambles. |
| Churchyard  | Monitor all 4 new trees and water when necessary.<br>Monitor bramble regrowth in cleared areas and spot treat as necessary.  |
| Little Lane | Control bramble growth in bare area near seat.<br>Cut back holly bushes to keep path clear; check overhanging branches.  |

### **Summer**

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|------------|--|
| Orchard    | Monitor two new oak trees and water as necessary.<br>Cut/remove weeds from woodland areas.<br>Prune plum and damson trees (June).<br>Clear hay from meadow.<br>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.  |

### **Autumn**

Prepare display for Church Fete.

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Orchard    | Cut Barton Rd hedge; autumn weeding clear-up.<br>Consider entering fruit in Horticultural Show.<br>Prune apple, pear and non-fruit trees.   |
| Churchyard | Remove/treat any new ivy growth on weeping silver birch.<br>Clear weeds and debris from border next to 34 Main St.<br>Clear moss from path. |
| Roadsides  | Trim hedges around roadside trees to avoid beheading by mechanical hedgecutters.  |

### **Winter**

Dormant period.  
Prepare for Spring.