

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CARLTON

**Minutes of a meeting held in St Andrew's Community Hub, Main Street, Carlton
at 7 pm on Wednesday 14th May 2025**

Present: S G Tupling (Chairman), R G Arnold, J H Boston, I Sarson, (Councillors),
J Melen (County Councillor), 3 members of the public, C J Peat (Clerk).
Apologies: Cllr M Vann, Ms R Yule.

1. Minutes of the meeting of 8th May 2024

It was resolved that the minutes be confirmed, and they were signed by the Chairman.

2. Presentation from H&BBC Health Improvement Officer

This Officer did not attend.

3. Report from the Carlton Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Group

Ms Yule was not able to attend, but had submitted the following written report which was read.

Carlton NHW is a community group that exists to help Carlton stay safe, increase knowledge of local crime prevention and policing matters and encourage neighbourliness. 81 people are registered and receive monthly e-mail crime updates and alerts. 43 people are registered on the National Carlton NHW page including a number from Market Bosworth. Being registered as a NHW scheme is useful as you can get a discount with some household insurers.

2024/25

During the 12 months April 2024 to March 2025 there were **20 reported crimes in Carlton**. This is higher than 16 crimes the previous year. Details are below and previous year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison:

10 - violence and/or sexual offence (5)
4 - criminal damage and arson (2)
0 - burglary (1)
1 - vehicle crime (0)
1 - other theft (3)
0 - other crime (1)
2 - public order (4)
2 - Anti social behaviour (0)

Crime was very unevenly spread around the year with Feb and July 2024 the busiest months accounting for 14 or 70% of the years reported crime in Carlton. Burglary and vehicle crime remains low, possibly due to continuing efforts from residents to make Carlton less attractive to opportunist thieves. It is disappointing that ASB appears this year as a reported crime. This can blight neighbourhoods and is taken seriously by Leicestershire Police so residents are always encouraged to report it formally rather than feel they must put up with it.

Violence and/or sexual offence is a wide-ranging term covering crime from low level pushing and shoving up to serious rape and most cases of domestic abuse/domestic violence. It remains the largest reported crime across Carlton and the wider Bosworth area, accounting for 38% of all reported crime, 928 incidents. This has been the case as long as I have been compiling reported crime and is mirrored nationwide.

I am often asked “where was a particular crime in Carlton?” and “what is being done?”. The answer is publicly available on the police.uk website. If you search under Your Area with a Carlton postcode this will show a dropped pin for the approximate location of the reported crime and will indicate whether it is under investigation or no further action. You can search any area and any month.

Outcome rates for crime in our wider area in the 12 months to March 2025 are below with last year's figures in brackets:

- 37% Investigation complete, no suspect identified, no further action (39%)
- 29% Unable to prosecute suspect (30%)
- 5% Further or formal investigation or action not in the public interest (6%)
- 6% Under investigation (7%)
- 10% Offender dealt with by local resolution/caution/ court result unavailable/action by another organisation/ awaiting court outcome (9%)
- 2% Status update unavailable (2%)
- 11% Other (7%)

Just 10% with a clear offender outcome is poor for residents and victims of crime. In the last 12 months 73% of crimes appear to be closed by Leics Police without any positive action for victims. This is disappointing given the amount of mb phone or CCTV footage that now exists to assist police action. It is also surprising given the huge proportion of violence and/or sexual offence where a face-to-face crime exists and therefore, presumably, a high chance of suspect identification. We can only hope that Leicestershire Police are committed to investigative work and prosecution rather than merely closing crime reports or discouraging prosecution action.

Crime not included in the Statistics

The monthly NHW crime statistics do not paint the full picture. Economic crime in the form of cybercrime, fraud and scamming is a constant issue from organised gangs. Data from UK Finance Annual Fraud Report showed that fraud represents over 40% of reported crime in 2024 with losses of £1.17 billion. Moreover, victims often suffer severe emotional damage due to the manipulation and erosion of trust. We do not know how many Carlton residents have been victims of fraud as the figures are not available.

In 2024 there have been some important and welcome improvements on fraud, including the government's fraud strategy, the Online Fraud Charter, the Online Safety Act, and good progress by some tech companies to try to prevent fraud.

NHW have highlighted the need for vigilance, strong passwords and two factor authentication security on passwords and devices to avoid hacking. Fraud or cybercrime can be reported at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. Suspicious emails should also be sent to SERS (Suspicious email reporting service) at report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious texts can be forwarded to 7726.

Leicestershire Police

Neighbourhood Link and Leicestershire Rural Crime are available to all as a text alert service with live updates of local issues – just google Neighbourhood Link and Sign Up. Market Bosworth Police Facebook page is regularly updated and is a source of current police news. Police drop-in sessions are regularly held across local villages including The Gate Hangs Well.

Contacts

The Beat Team for Market Bosworth, Ratby, Groby and surrounding villages is Sgt 1864 Jarrod Paterson; PC 1242 Amy Cunningham; PCSO 6018 Grace Muldoon; PC 658 Allan Charles and PCSO 6501 Niko Sidiropoulos. Inspector Matt Allingham is the Local Policing Commander for Hinckley and Blaby. The Police and Crime Commissioner elected in 2024 is Rupert Matthews.

In an emergency dial 999: the non-emergency police contact is 101. Further contacts are HBBC ASB Helpline on 01455 255 746 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Rosi Yule
Tel: 292212

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
Email: chalkstorm@btopenworld.com

4. Report from the Chairman of Carlton Parish Council

This year's review covers the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 and I am pleased to report that it has been a generally quiet year within the Parish with no major incidents or problems.

For several years we have been monitoring traffic speeds and all of the data indicates that the vast majority of drivers comply with the law and I thank them all for that. Unfortunately, however, there are always a few inconsiderate motorists who ignore the speed limits and endanger life. Our request for a 20 mph speed limit in the village was refused.

Parking on pavements is also a constant problem, the main culprits appearing to be delivery drivers, workmen and visitors. It is not an offence to park on a pavement providing sufficient space is left to allow the safe passage of pedestrians, wheelchairs and pushchairs. So please help everyone by asking your visitors to leave sufficient space or to park wholly on the road which creates a chicane and slows down traffic.

Carlton Gardening Group

If any of you have some free time then irrespective of gardening knowledge the group welcomes willing helpers. This year they have removed overhanging trees in Little Lane and installed a second noticeboard near to 'The Gate', courtesy of a grant from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, plus of course all the constant maintenance tasks around the village.

The bus shelters have been treated with preservative and Market Bosworth Rotary volunteers have repainted the village seats.

Churchyard and Cemetery

The cemetery fencing has been replaced and the adjacent footpath widened. Furthermore, the stile at Westfields Farm has been replaced with a kissing gate thanks to a local authority grant, along with two other stiles in neighbouring parishes.

After many years the church gate has been repaired and a solar powered replica lamp installed above thanks to a grant from the Patston Trust. We continue to monitor the churchyard wall for structural movement.

The Horticultural & Produce Show received 67 entries which was down on the previous year, probably as a result of the bad weather. I would like to thank Bill Sharp for inaugurating the show in 2002, and welcome Judith Boston to the team.

The second Christmas lights switch-on was well attended on a miserable wet evening and raised £146 for local charities. The event was organised by 'The Friends' with entertainment from 'Carlton's Rock Choir'.

The Council

The Parish Council consists of five elected unpaid volunteer Councillors supported by Chris Peat their Clerk who is in law the Proper Officer of the Council. All Councillors are subject to an adopted Code of Conduct.

We held six meetings through the year in St Andrew's Community Hub, all open to the public. Everyone is welcome to attend, and should you have any ideas or suggestions please contact myself or a member of the team Attendance was Tupling 6, Arnold 5, Boston 5, Sarson 5, Vann 6, Clerk 6, members of the public 14. We considered 13 planning applications and were represented at four meetings of other bodies. In addition to the above, the whole Council attended a bespoke training course.

I would like to congratulate Dr Luke Evans on his re-election as our MP, and thank Mandie Bristlin for editing Carlton News and welcome Peter Gannon who has taken over.

Finally my thanks go to all of the team, the army of volunteers and all the organisations and bodies who give their expertise, time and effort to keep the village running smoothly.

Stuart Tupling Chairman

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed _____

Date _____