

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 8th May 2024

Present: S G Tupling (Chairman), R G Arnold, J H Boston, M Vann (Councillors),
M A Cook (Borough Councillor), 2 members of the public, C J Peat (Clerk).
Apologies: County Cllr B Harrison-Rushton, Cllr I Sarson, Ms R Yule.

1. Minutes of the meeting of 17th May 2023

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

2. Report from the Carlton Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

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.

77 people are currently registered and receive monthly e-mail crime updates and alerts. 42 people are registered on the National Carlton NHW page. Being registered in a NHW scheme is useful as you can get a discount with some household insurers.

2023/24

During the 12 months April 2023 to March 2024 there were 16 reported crimes in Carlton. This is better news after 21 crimes the previous year. Details are below and previous year's figures are shown in brackets for comparison:

- 5 - violence and/or sexual offence (6)
- 2 - criminal damage and arson (5)
- 1 - burglary (2)
- 0 - vehicle crime (1)
- 3 - other theft (3)
- 1 - other crime (1)
- 4 - public order (3)

Crime was relatively evenly spread around the year with May 2023 the busiest month with 4 crimes in Carlton. Burglary and vehicle crime has reduced this year, perhaps due to continuing precautions from householders to make Carlton less attractive to opportunist thieves.

Violence and/or sexual offence which covers crime ranging from low level pushing and shoving up to serious rape remains the largest reported crime across Carlton and the wider Bosworth rural area, accounting for 40% of all reported crime, 973 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/event in Carlton?” 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. You can search any area and any month.

Outcome rates for crime in our wider area in the 12 months to March 2024 are below with last year’s figures in brackets:

- 39% Investigation complete, no suspect identified, no further action (37%)
- 30% Unable to prosecute suspect (33%)
- 6% Further or formal investigation or action not in the public interest (2%)
- 7% Under investigation (9%)
- 9% Offender dealt with by local resolution/caution/ court result unavailable/action by another organization or awaiting court outcome (10%)
- 2% Status update unavailable (2%)
- 7% Other (7%)

Just 9% with a clear offender outcome is poor for residents and victims of crime and worse than last year’s 10%. In the last 12 months 75% of crimes appear to be closed by the police without any positive action for victims. This is particularly disappointing given the amount of mb phone or CCTV footage that now exists to assist police action. We can only hope that Leicestershire Police are committed to investigative work and prosecution rather than merely closing crime reports.

Crime not included in the Statistics

The monthly crime statistics do not paint the full picture. Economic crime in the form of cybercrime, fraud and scamming is a constant issue. Data from Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, showed that in 2023 22,530 people reported that their online accounts had been hacked, with victims losing a total of £1.3 million. Ticket fraud in 2023 accounted for £6.7m and banking card fraud increased 57% to £33 million in 2023.

Carlton residents and businesses are not immune; scams arrive by mb phone, landline, post, and email and are constant in trying to part us from our money. 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 although victims have reported that this is more a statistical gathering centre than an investigative unit. 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

In 2023 the Leicestershire Rural Policing Team was expanded from 3 to 8 and headed by Sgt Rob Cross, previously in the Bosworth Team. 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 also a source of current police news.

Police drop-in sessions were held at The Gate Hangs Well in April 2024, but unfortunately little notice was given.

On 3 May 2024 Rupert Matthews was re-elected as Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner with a majority of 860 on an electoral turnout of 22% across the County.

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, PC 4579 Rich Heath and PCSO 6501 Niko Sidiropoulos. Inspector Steve Palmer is the Local Policing Commander for Hinckley and Blaby.

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

3. Report from the Chairman of Carlton Parish Council

This report covers the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

I am frequently asked ‘What is a Parish Council and what does it do?’ I shall try to provide a simple answer. A Parish Council is an elected body of local government with statutory powers. It has the legal right to take action but has fewer duties. The wide range of powers includes cemeteries and burials, roadside seats, litter bins, street lighting and leisure facilities such as play areas, open space, footpaths and liaison with the Police and other bodies. The Parish Council is consulted on planning matters but can only provide an opinion, not a decision.

Councillors are unpaid volunteers whereas the Clerk is the employed ‘proper officer’ of the Council in law; all are subject to a Code of Conduct. Council meetings are open to the public but run under certain legal rules and everyone is welcome to attend. Hopefully I have provided you with a brief and simplified answer.

Carlton Parish Council held six meetings last year in Saint Andrew’s Community Hub. All meetings were open to the public and were advertised on the Parish notice board, in Carlton News and on the Council’s website - www.carltonpc.co.uk. Everyone is welcome and if any of you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact myself or any Councillor.

Attendance this year was: Tupling 6; Arnold 5; Boston 5; Sarson 5; Vann 6; Clerk 6; members of the public 16. The Parish Council considered 18 planning applications and was represented at 5 meetings of other bodies.

The year began with the well-attended Coronation Party at ‘The Gate’ and my thanks go to the hardworking organisers. The Coronation was also celebrated by the planting of an *Amelanchier* specimen tree in the churchyard by Claire Harris who was a member of the Carlton Brownie Pack which planted trees for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977.

The Carlton Gardening Group had a busy year. In addition to regular duties, further bulb plantings provided a stunning display of daffodils this spring; tree surgery was carried out in Little Lane; soil was removed from behind the churchyard wall and additional playbark and a planted trough were provided in the Jubilee Orchard. The ‘RHS It's Your Neighbourhood’ scheme congratulated the Gardening Group with a Level 4 award for the Jubilee Orchard.

Carlton Fete continued its annual success, raising over £3,700 for the church, and the Horticultural Show benefitted from increased entries.

The Christmas light switch-on was well attended and included a performance by the Carlton Rock Choir raising over £250 for worthwhile causes. In addition thanks go to several residents who with the Parish Council's permission erected an illuminated tree on the East Green.

For those walkers in the village, the majority of the remaining stiles have been replaced with kissing gates and our thanks go to the landowners, County Council members and their funding allocations for their support.

Hinckley and Bosworth Council in conjunction with the Rural Community Council held several public advisory meetings in The Hub and the Police have been providing community liaison sessions in The Gate at the Friday coffee mornings.

All companies and organisations assume that everybody is fully conversant with and has access to the internet and mobile technology. Clearly this is not the case and if anybody would like assistance in viewing documents and reports please contact myself, the Clerk or any Councillor and we will be happy to help.

Good ways of keeping up to date with village activities are Carlton News, the Parish Council website, Facebook or indeed word of mouth particularly at the weekly Friday coffee mornings in The Gate.

Thanks to

Internal Auditor, Carlton News, Carlton Footpath Group, Carlton Gardening Group, Carlton Neighbourhood Watch Group, Keep Carlton Tidy Group, Carlton Youth Champions, Heritage and Tree Warden, Parochial Church Council, The Friends of Saint Andrews and the Village Fete and Horticultural Show organisers and the Jubilee Committee, Borough and County Councillors – Maureen Cook & Bertie Harrison-Rushton, our local Police officers and supporting authorities.

As always, my thanks go to the army of volunteers who have given their time, expertise and equipment to keep the Parish running smoothly.

Finally, my thanks go to my fellow Councillors, Robin Arnold, Judith Boston, Ian Sarson, Mick Vann and your Parish Clerk Chris Peat whose support make all of this possible.

Stuart Tupling Chairman

The meeting closed at 19:20 hrs.

Signed _____

Date _____