

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 18th March 2026

Present: Mick Vann (Chairman), Judith Boston, Jeanette Knappett, John Piggon, Ian Sarson, John Storer, Chris Peat (Secretary).

Apologies: Liz & Tom Alun-Jones, Paul Boston, Mike Hague-Morgan, Graham Jackson, Franco Onesti, Keith Scott, Nick Smith, Jo Spencer, Stuart & Caroline Tupling,

1. Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 27th March 2025

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

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

Judith Boston, Jeanette Knappett, Chris Peat, John Storer & Mick Vann **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 2025: the fruit trees had been labelled and the trough installed. The site had been inspected on 1 July, had been assessed as *Level 4 – Thriving*, with the award of a £10 garden voucher. It had been suggested that the reptile and amphibian refuges be surveyed; an information board be provided; and fruit bushes be planted in front of the close-boarded fences to soften the fence line. The assessment period had been extended for 2026 and would run from 1 June to 21 August.

It was resolved that the CGG enter the IYN Scheme in 2026 with three sites: the CDJO, the Churchyard and Little Lane.

6. Financial report

All expenditure is reported in the Parish Council's quarterly financial statements under the Carlton Gardening Group Earmarked Fund. There was an error in that the allocation of £51.15 from the PC had been omitted from Reports 2025-14, 2025-12 & 2026-01 by mistake. PC minutes p.1965/13e refers.

		£.p
25.3.25	Brought forward	48.85
1.4.25	Allocation from PC	51.15
	Award from IYN 2025	10.00
		<hr/> 110.00
3.26	Holly for Barton Rd hedge	66.63
18.3.26	Balance carried forward	43.37
1.4.26	Allocation from PC	56.63
1.4.26	Available funds	<hr/> 100.00

7. 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 86.25 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (42.5 hours), Churchyard and Cemetery (31.25 hrs), and highway verges and RoW (12.5 hrs) during 2025.

The work in the Churchyard and Cemetery included putting up and taking down the Christmas lights (15 hours). Tania & Bill Sharp **were thanked** for providing generous refreshments for working parties.

John & Veronica Storer, and Karen Downs **were thanked** for looking after the troughs at the eastern end of Main St and in the CDJO respectively.

Diamond Jubilee Orchard

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 was growing on.

The northern hedge had been cut by the PC's contractor and sided by the neighbouring landowner.

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.

Snowdrops had been transplanted into the western border near to the path.
A hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) at the extreme eastern end of the northern site hedge was growing well.

T55 (*Malus Red sentinel*) had stabilised and the stakes had been removed.

The wide highway verge at the Nailstone Rd end of the site had been mowed by the PCs contractor.

A replacement leg had been fitted to the swings.

Additional playbark had been laid in the Toddlers Play Area.

Plums from the Orchard had been awarded second prize in the Horticultural Show.

The fences between number 7 & 8 had blown over and had been left on the grass in the CDJO with nails sticking up. NCHA had taken no action and the fencing had been made safe and eventually removed by CGG volunteers. The PC had complained to the Chairman of NCHA, so far without any response.

Churchyard and Cemetery

Inspection chamber covers had been levelled up.

Leaning slate headstones had been straightened.

A trial excavation had shown the depth and structure of the churchyard wall.

Little Lane

No works had been carried out.

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.

One of the yellow willow cuttings on the eastern side of Congerstone Road was growing; one had died and had been replaced.

Carlton Greens

The pipe under Shackerstone Walk had been repaired by LCC Highways in June.

The outfall of this pipe along Congerstone Lane had become blocked, leading to more flooding in Shackerstone Walk. The landowner responsible had promised to clean out the ditch, but had not yet done so.

Other sites

The elm tree planted at Manor House Farm had been blown crooked, but appeared healthy although it had not put on much growth.

A display about the CGG had been mounted at the Horticultural & Produce Show. The show had been held in a marquee at the Fete and had attracted 203 visitors.

Primrose Sunday – a pop-up event had been held in Bulls Nook Wood on 6 April had raised £120 in voluntary donations for the FoSACC.

Seven Village Gardens had been opened in aid of the National Gardens Scheme on 1 June 2025. The event had raised £2,317.60 for the NGS, and £421.22 each for the FoSACC and the PCC.

It was resolved that the annual report to Carlton PC comprise information from items 2-3, and 5-7 of these minutes.

8. Forward work programme

A draft forward work programme had been copied to all members before the meeting, and this was discussed and amended.

The Parish Council is planning to re-build the churchyard wall in 2026, and will be inviting volunteers for a concentrated period of work in taking down the old wall and cleaning the bricks for re-use.

It was agreed that a shelving unit be made as a donation and exchange point for crops, plants and materials. Ian, Mick, John and Paul volunteered to build one from pallets. Mr and Mrs Lockwood had suggested that this might be sited in the churchyard next to the path to the east of the vestry.

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

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 2026

Spring

- Orchard Transplant cyclamen from beneath Judas tree after flowering.
Plant pot-grown holly trees into east hedge.
Give hedges a final trim, including box hedge next to TPA.
Crown raise fastigate hornbeam trees across road from The Gate.
Plant sessile yew between electricity sub-station and reptile refuge for ground cover to replace T53.
Monitor weeds in paths and Nailstone Rd holly hedge and spray when necessary. Spray round fruit trees.
Dig out any remaining brambles; clear weeds from fern corner.
Make laminated information sheets and hang at entrances.
- Churchyard Burn ivy cuttings.
Monitor all 4 new trees and water when necessary.
Monitor bramble regrowth in cleared areas and spot treat as necessary.
Consider raising crown of yew at top of bank.
- Little Lane Control bramble growth in bare area near seat.
Cut back holly bushes to keep path clear; check overhanging branches.
Plant primroses and snowdrops in the green.
- Roadsides Assess potential for ecological enhancement of Congerstone Road verge.

Summer

- Dispose of timber from felling of Austrian pine tree.
Take down churchyard wall, clean and store bricks and capstones.
- 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.

Autumn

- Restore churchyard and re-seed after wall re-building works.
Replant cyclamen beneath Judas tree.
Consider hiring fruit press to process fruit from CDJO and private gardens.
- Orchard Cut Barton Rd hedge; autumn weeding clear-up.
Consider entering fruit in Horticultural Show.
Prune apple, pear and non-fruit trees.
- Churchyard Remove/treat any new ivy growth on weeping silver birch.
Clear weeds and debris from border next to 34 Main St.
Clear moss from path.
- Little Lane Plant autumn-flowering cyclamen.
- Roadsides Trim hedges around roadside trees to avoid beheading by mechanical hedgecutters.

Winter

Dormant period.

Prepare for Spring.