

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in St Peter's Church Carlton On Thursday 12 November 2015

Present: - Stephen Roberts, Hedley Francis, Caroline Revitt, Michael Mann, Giles Dobson, Stan Richardson, Kate Homan, Roger Hickford - County Councillor, Andrew Fraser – District Councillor

Edith Osborn as Clerk
Members of the public- David Harrison

1 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Richard Turner. A quorum was present.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 July 2015.

The Chairman highlighted items such as the bridleway, speed restrictions and the War Memorial from the minutes which would be covered again later in the meeting
Stephen Roberts proposed that the minutes be accepted and Michael Mann seconded the proposal.

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2015 were approved.

3 Declarations of Interest

No councillor had any new interests to declare.

4 Administration

4.1 Co-option of councillor

The Chairman welcomed Kate Homan to the meeting. She had put herself forward to stand as a parish councillor. Stephen Roberts proposed that Kate Homan be elected to the council and Giles Dobson seconded the proposal. All voted in favour of the proposal.

4.2 Safeguarding policy

A new safeguarding policy had been drafted as such a policy was now necessary. Caroline Revitt proposed that the policy be accepted and Michael Mann seconded the proposal.

4.3 Equal Opportunities policy

A new equal opportunities policy had been drafted which had followed a standardised wording. Giles Dobson proposed that the policy be adopted and Caroline Revitt seconded the proposal.

5 Finance

5.1 Payments proposed for authorisation were:

5.1.1 Brown & Ralph chq 280	£ 345.60
5.1.2 CGM Ltd chq 279	£ 96.00
5.1.3 Clerk's expenses	£ 10.06

The payments were proposed for authorisation by Stephen Roberts and seconded by Stan Richardson..

5.2 Receipts, payments and reconciliation as at 31 October 2015

Stephen Roberts proposed that the accounts as at 31 October 2015 be approved and Kate Homan seconded the proposal.

5.3 Precept 2016/17

The Clerk had proposed a precept of £3,300. The Chairman referred to the items which had contributed to the increase in the precept which was mainly an increase in the road safety contributions. It was proposed that this item be held at the same figure as last year and therefore the precept would remain at £3,000.

Stephen Roberts proposed that the precept be £3,000 and this was seconded by Caroline Revitt.

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

6 **Planning.**

6.1 Update report

There were no new planning applications to report on. Caroline Revitt had heard that Mr Garrad intended to re-apply for permission to build one house on the scrapyard land in Willingham Green.

7 **Environmental**

7.1 S106 monies – proposal for planings on byway

The question of the ecological effects of planings on the Stour and in the ditch running beside the byway could not be answered as the Officer was on maternity leave. The Chairman had therefore spoken to Peter Gaskin, the Footpaths Officer, who had advised that in another scheme involving bitumen based planings, the path had not been affected by the materials placed on top of it. The addition of soil and grass seed on top had helped. The bitumen planings needed to be graded so that what was laid needed to be planings of 75mm as a maximum size.

Stan Richardson queried why the County Council were not liable to pay for the planings and maintain the surface of the byway. He had researched this issue by searching on Essex County Council's website and had brought a copy of the discussion paper with him. The Chairman agreed to discuss responsibilities with Roger Hickford and the cost of the planings.

The Parish Council are not able to spend the S106 money on anything else and the County Council may not have the money to pay for the planings in any case.

It was agreed to go ahead with the laying of planings on the byway and if any contribution could be obtained from the County Council, so much the better.

7.2 Willingham Green/Carlton Green speed restriction applications

Caroline Revitt advised that she had sought advice about the number of applications which each Parish can make and only one is considered each year. Willingham Green applied in the previous year but failed. The Chairman read out Kate Homan's email as a result of her discussions with the Panel. She had submitted a further application and her attendance at the next Panel meeting is required. Decisions are made in mid-January.

7.3 Wadlow Wind Farm representation

The Chairman confirmed that Carlton is one of nine villages which can apply for funding and at the current time Carlton is able to have a representative at the Fund meetings of which there are four per year. The Chairman attended the last meeting at which representatives voted on schemes proposed but he requested that another councillor fulfil that role in future. Kate Homan agreed to attend the next meetings. The Chair will forward contact details to Kate Homan.

7.4 Bus Shelter-application to WW Farm

Stephen Roberts had put forward the case for a replacement bus shelter to Wadlow Wind Farm fund. The person he was dealing with agreed what information needed to be supplied by the parish council and then left his job, so nothing happened until the Chairman chased the person again. The Grants Officer then advised that the two policies approved earlier in the meeting were also required before the parish council's application could be considered.

Cllr Roger Hickford arrived.

7.5 Road surfaces and gritting

Cllr Hickford advised that road surfaces which needed gritting had been cut by a third using better scientific methods. A roads were still being gritted but not all B roads.

Skippers Lane is on the A list. This is with effect from 1 April 2016.

It was noted that nothing had happened about the bend at the Old School House. Cllr Hickford admitted that the road maintenance department was behind schedule.

7.6 Footpaths

There had been no complaints about footpaths.

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

It was noted that there was a circular walk starting in Weston Colville on New Year's Day.

7.7 War Memorial lettering work

The Clerk advised that the lettering work had been completed although not to the highest standard. It may be best to have such work carried out at the same time as the War Memorial is cleaned next time.

7.8 East Anglian Air Ambulance donation

The East Anglian Air Ambulance charity had requested a donation from the parish council under S137. The Chairman referred to the request regarding the poppy donation which had been decided at the time that parishioners should support if they wanted to, not the parish council. Hedley Francis noted that the air ambulance service had benefitted the parishioners twice in the village recently. Was there a direct link to all parishioners to this charity? All councillors agreed to support the charity. The Chairman proposed a donation of 1% of the precept giving £30. The proposal was agreed unanimously.

7.9 Mobile phone reception from new mast

Hedley Francis advised that he got good reception from 3 but Stan Richardson did not from Vodafone. The Chairman had spoken to the developers and each phone company is responsible for adding their dish to the mast but it sounded as if Vodafone were not interested in doing this work.

7.10 Broadband within the Parish

As a result of the public meeting in Stetchworth with Lucy Frazer, a meeting could be arranged in Carlton to provide information on when Carlton would be connected. Jane from Connecting Cambridgeshire had advised that Carlton would go live in 2016 with a copper/fibre cabinet situated in the village leading to superfast broadband. Carlton Green would receive 100mb so would not be superfast. At the public meeting, it was clear that West Wickham were not happy with their service so Carlton's connected service date had been put back.

Roger Hickford found it frustrating that there is a lack of communication. The aim is to cover 98% of Cambridgeshire and there is still money in the pot to cover the difficult sites.

Hedley Francis advised that he had spoken to the technical team from Connecting Cambridgeshire after the meeting about running a mini box to Carlton Green from a main box in Carlton.

The Chairman will advise new dates as they become known.

7.11 Neighbourhood Plan/Village Survey

The Chairman referred to the meeting which had taken place the night before in which information was provided to parish councils on setting up a Neighbourhood Plan and also to the fact that West Wickham were going ahead with preparing their Neighbourhood Plan. He noted that previously when this issue had been discussed, Carlton had opted for completing a village survey, the first step to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Kate Homan had attended the meeting and she reported that to prepare such a Plan would involve a large amount of work, a detailed consultation would be required, policies created and the costs of preparing the Plan could be quite high. West Wickham and Linton parishes had proposed housing in their areas and therefore they wanted a plan to be in place to deal with this issue.

Neighbourhood Plans may not suit every parish.

Giles Dobson advised that he had worked on such Plans in the past and Parish Plans are important if you have housing sites within the parish. Hedley Frances questioned whether we needed a Plan to defend ourselves.

The Chairman mentioned the Gowings site at Willingham Green and that SCDC would have to take into account any Plan covering the site which was in force.

Andrew Fraser advised that the Local Plan had been suspended. In the meantime 500 houses had been added and some of the proposals had been revised. There could be a requirement in the next Plan for villages to add houses to the existing stock.

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman reminded the councillors that this issue had been revisited because of West Wickham's proposed Plan but Carlton had made a decision in the past not to go ahead. The consensus of opinion was that there was no change to this view. The Chairman thanked Kate Homan for attending the meeting.

7.12 CCC public archive policy

As mentioned at the previous meeting only 12 photographs can be added to the village website. Roger Hickford agreed to look into this policy and respond.

8 District Councillor's report

Cllr Fraser reported on a number of issues:

Planning – There are proposals to change the way Planning is dealt with. If a Parish Council objects to an application but few representatives of the Parish Council attend the Planning Meetings, this leads to wasted officers' time and the application will be accepted anyway. The new proposal is that if Parish Councils want to object the objections must relate to relevant planning issues. There will be an additional box to tick on the application form. The District Council will be looking for grounds to object on, therefore a member of the Parish Council should attend the Planning Meetings.

Boundary Review – The Local Government Boundary Commission requires SCDC to reduce the number of councillors from 57 to a maximum of 45. The public consultation runs between May and July 2016 with a published final decision on 6 September 2016.

Local Plan – The public consultation runs from December to January 2016. An additional 500 houses have been added to the Plan together with a few changes to the methods used for calculations.

Christmas Bin collection – Between December and February 2016 the green bins will be picked up once per month.

The black bin collection over this period did not work well last year so the Council have gone back to the old scheme.

A1307 road scheme – Haverhill Chamber of Commerce launched a campaign to improve the A1307 but acted as if the deal has been agreed.

The City Deal are providing the money but the meeting on 17 December has been delayed.

9 County Councillor's report

Cllr Hickford reported on the major issues affecting the County Council:

A1307 – He reported that £39m had been set aside for road improvements between Four Wentways and Cambridge. The Assembly had decided that the whole corridor needed improvement and therefore a report is to be prepared covering all modes of transport and the full length. The report will not be available until May next year but there is no money for the section between Haverhill and Four Wentways.

County Council - He reported that the Council is in a dire situation with a budget of only £450m. £150m had been agreed to be cut over five years from the previous year's budget of £750m. Further cuts are planned for next year. 80% of the Council's spending is on 4% of the population. 20% of the spending is on places, rubbish, street lighting and roads. The Council is having to look at services in a different way and consider which option offers the least pain.

Waste reduction – The Council has worked well in this area of service but there is still too much going to landfill. Half of the contents of the black bins could be recycled via the blue bin.

Boundary Review – there will be less Councillors covering more parishes. SCDC and CCC will be meeting together as there will not be enough coverage of parishes.

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

10 General observations or matters for consideration at the next meeting

Caroline Revitt suggested that working parties would be needed to maintain the trees which were planted last year.

Working parties also need to be arranged to lay the plantings on the byway.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 11 February 2016 at 8pm.

The Meeting closed at 10.10pm.