# CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12 May 2016 St PETER'S CHURCH

Present: Stephen Roberts (Chairman), Michael Mann, Hedley Francis, Giles Dobson, Stan Richardson, Kate Homan Edith Osborn as Clerk Cllr Andrew Fraser - SCDC Cllr Hickford - CCC A number of members of the public.

#### Parish Council Report to the Parish

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the annual meeting at which important issues affecting the village are able to be discussed. He noted that there was a good community spirit in the village and also that new residents had moved in during the year.

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2015 were approved.

The Chairman introduced the councillors and advised that Caroline Revitt had stepped down from the council after 25 years. She will, however, still brief the council on wildlife and footpaths.

Carlton's precept amounts to £3k and is the third smallest in Cambridgeshire. It had increased slightly last year to cover repairs, such as the bus shelter, which in the end was funded by Wadlow Wind Farm. The War Memorial is maintained by the council and this year had the lettering renewed. He noted that the war grave in the cemetary is logged with the War Graves Commission.

The council have responsibility for cutting the grass verges within the village boundaries and it can be tricky to predict when is best time to cut. The verges are also under threat due to large lorries coming through the village and continually eating away at the edges. On a review of the planning applications this year, there have only been three put forward in the village.

Application to Wadlow Wind Farm had been made for the first time to fund the bus shelter repairs. Kate Homan is the representative on the council for Wadlow Wind Farm. £29k was distributed to the villages surrounding the Farm last year. John Mingay carried out the work on the bus shelter for cost and the council are grateful to him for doing that.

The Chairman thanked Hedley for creating a new website for Carlton.

He also thanked the people actively involved with the broadband project; Paul Martin, Malcolm Stennett and Hedley Francis who commented on Connecting Cambridgeshire and BT's proposals. The Green Road will have its surface further improved as the council have used some of the S106 money to purchase further planings which will be delivered on Friday and on Saturday, the Coppens will move the planings from the top of the by-way to the site. In order to get Andrew Coppen's machine down the by-way a lot of work has been done to clear the path. This work has been funded by S106 money obtained from construction of new dwellings in the village, The council is restricted on what it can use the money for but footpath surfacing falls within the requirements. Money remaining could be used on the Millenium Walkway as that needs restoration.

The new mast at the Farm offers 3 or 4 G and is making a difference.

Any potholes in the roads can be reported on line on the County Council's website.

Speed of vehicles and the blind bend in Carlton Green have been under discussion this year as both endanger the residents.

A donation of 1% of the precept was made to East Anglian Air Ambulance this year as two people within the village had need of its services.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work with council paperwork.

There was a power cut from 11am last Monday and he noted that residents affected can claim £15 per head for meals.

He invited everyone to stay after the meeting for drinks.

## 2 Footpaths, Bridleway, Trees and wildflowers

Caroline Revitt stated that she had stood for the Council when the proposal was made to create a reservoir between Carlton, Brinkley and Gt Bradley.

She noted that the land between Carlton and Carlton Green is the only part of the parish without a footpath.

The footpath over the Stour has been replaced recently.

She thanked Stephen and Josephine who had worked over the last twelve months to plant replacement trees, some oaks, rowans birches due to ash dieback. However this will be an on-going job.

She noted that there are not many wildflowers about now and she has been speaking to the surrounding farmers about the level of spraying at the edges of fields.

She had noticed 30 bee orchids in Willingham Green this Spring and the skylarks had returned.

#### 3 Broadband

Hedley Francis advised that he had met with Noelle Godfrey of Connecting Cambridgeshire and BT at Shire Hall and a decision was taken that one green cabinet was not a good idea and two would be installed. Carlton Green would come online later than Carlton. Work would start in September 2016 and the connections would be operational by December 2016, Carlton Green would be 6 months behind that schedule. The initial proposal is for the box to be sited opposite Oaklands but there are discussions about moving the installation site more towards the centre of the village. He had added maps to the website showing the likely speeds, 24 mbps for all residents but can be upgraded at a later date. The power supply to the cabinets needed to be sorted out. Residents would need to talk to their provider to upgrade their broadband.

The Government is doing a deal with satellite broadband companies but that is not available to Carlton.

The local MP held a meeting about Broadband which was packed with villagers from the surrounding area. It seem better to stay with the fibre option rather than taking up other providers' options

He confirmed that he had updated the website to 1850.

## 4 Grass Verges

The Chairman advised that when the grain store at Weston Woods was built, the Parish Council knew that movements through the village would increase. He had requested that a representative from Thurlow Estate attend the meeting but they were not available. It was noted that everybody is affected by this loss of verges and wildflowers.

A S106 Agreement was drawn up at the time to show which ways lorries would be travelling and records were to be kept of the movements. An officer from the Council did go and look at the records but there was not much information available. Grain lorries, horse transporters and cattle lorries travel through the village, up Acre Road as well as Carlton Green Road. It was queried what the weight limit is on the bridge near Bill's yard, this will be followed up. There had been four complaints this year about the verges. The difficulty is trying to identify who is causing the damage. When there were problems before, it was suggested that a log was kept of vehicles which then could be reported on. Roger Hickford confirmed that the County Council own the first four feet of the verge. The County Councillors are receiving complaints directly but there is a covenant between the council and firms so that lorries follow a specific route. If there is no reply from Thurlow Estate, the Council will visit them. The County Council does not have any money to put in kerbs. Another option would be to lower the speed limit in Carlton, neighbourhood speedwatch is the most effective way to get speeds down.

#### 5 Road Safety in Carlton Green

Kate Homan reported that there were no speed limit signs in Carlton Green and there is a sharp bend which has no warnings. She had submitted an application to the County Council for road improvements and had a successful meeting with the Projects Officer who was surprised that there was no signage for the hamlet. It was agreed that there would be a sign to say 'Please drive

carefully' and 'Slow' would be marked at either end of the hamlet. She was waiting for a breakdown of costs. The Parish Council will have to pay 10% of the costs. The Chairman thanked Kate Homan for the work she had put into this issue. He noted that a second application may be made for Willingham Green based on this success.

#### 6 Report by County Councillor

Cllr Hickford reported on the following:-

A1307 -The proposals are going to consultation but only £35k in the City Deal for them. There is no money for the stretch between Four Wentways and Haverhill . There is a year odf data covering the level of traffic on the A1307 and the 'rat runs' to be reviewed.

Boundary Review at County level – As a result of the third consultation on this, there will be less councillors covering a bigger area, the numbers will reduce from 69 to 61 councillors.

Local Highways Improvement Scheme – there is less money available, only £410k currently but another £200k could be included.

Options for use of Shire Hall are being considered.

He advised that he will be Deputy Leader from next Tuesday.

### 7 Report by the District Councillors

Councillor Fraser referred to a number of issues:

Local Plan – the Council are continuing to work to get an adopted Plan. The timetable has been revised and it should be completed by the end of the year.

Shared services – Services are being shared with Hunts and the City council comprising currently legal, ICT, and shortly, finance and planning. The Council is looking at ways of not increasing council tax. Ermine St Properties have been a very successful company taking £600k per year, so the scheme will be expanded. The Government is pleased that local government is doing something locally.

Community Chest – The Chest has £50k to spend with a limit of £1,500 per application and three applications per village.

Planning – Auto referrals to the planning committee have been replaced by parish councils applying supported by robust reasons. Applicants have 28 days to reply.

Devolution – Cambridge is not joining with Norfolk and Suffolk, they have agreed to listen to what Government is saying but are not keen on the idea.

## 8 Questions

There were no questions.

#### 9 Conclusion

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm with refreshment being made available to all attending.