

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

29 JUNE 2010

St PETER'S CHURCH

Present: Malcolm Stennett (Chairman), Michael Mann, Caroline Revitt, John Copen, Stephen Roberts, Richard Barrett SCDC, John Batchelor CC Edith Osborn as Clerk.

A number of members of the public.

Apologies: Hedley Francis, Elaine Read

The Chairman welcomed parishioners to the meeting.

1 Parish Council Report to the Parish

The Chairman reported that Gill Davis had retired from the Council at the last election and Stephen Roberts had been co-opted to the vacant seat. He noted that when the next vacancy arises it would be helpful, although not essential, if someone from Carlton Green were to come forward.

He then reported on the work of the Parish Council over the previous year.

- There had been four planning applications to consider.

- Sewerage within Carlton village had been completed including the layby in Brinkley Road. Councillor Batchelor had pointed out that the pumping station next to the layby had not been finished in accordance with the planning consent and he would inform the enforcement officer.

- The Chairman reviewed the accounts for the year. As at 1 April 2009 the Council had approximately £1,600 in the bank. £2,900 had been received during the year made up of :£2,100 for the precept,£474 as a grant from English Heritage and £350 for grasscutting from CCC. £3,150 of payments were made comprising of £1,000 to Rattee & Kett for cleaning of the War Memorial, £150 to St Peter's Church and £300 for grasscutting. The balance at the bank as at 1 April 2010 was £1,400.

There had been no change to the level of precept for the current year. The grant had not yet been applied for from SCDC for the cleaning of the War Memorial. It was agreed that the War Memorial was much improved after the cleaning had taken place.

During the year the Council had many subjects to consider, council standards, the telephone kiosk, community transport plan, police matters; from the District Council there were items such as public consultations on rural broadband for which a levy was to be introduced but which the new Government has now decided against, so where will the money come from?

Other concerns which the speakers may deal with later in the meeting were speeding, the verges and drainage.

2 Footpaths, Bridleway and Trees

Caroline Revitt advised that the Parish Council had joined the Parish Pathways Partnership which is a group of people comprising landowners, the County Council and Parish Councils. Some funds are available to help Parish Councils. The Access team at the County Council were very knowledgeable and in this role she would be able to meet with other Pathway Co-ordinators to discuss issues that may arise.

She advised that she had walked all the pathways from Six Mile Bottom to Carlton Green.

The pathway to Weston Colville is very rutted as it has not been laid with tarmac chippings being part of Weston Colville Parish. The green lane is now very good for walking after having the chippings laid in 2007.

In her role as Tree Warden she asked that she be informed of any trees within the village envelope which needed to be preserved.

3 Wadlow Wind Farm update

Councillor Barrett advised that SCDC's lawyers had advised that the District Council did not object to the wind farm going ahead after the Secretary of State had given planning permission in 2009 .

A meeting had been held in West Wrating on 16 March to which various parish Councils had been invited to discuss the impact of the wind farm.

Construction of the wind farm is to start in 18 months time and it will take 6 months to complete.

Councillor Barrett had visited a wind farm near Milton Keynes and had been interested in how the wind turbines had been transported to the site.

It was agreed that Carlton Parish Council would like to be part of the Committee as it was originally part of the group of 10 Parish Councils which were consulted. One question needing an answer was who would benefit from cheaper electricity.

Councillor Barrett agreed to bring this up at the next meeting.

- 4 Vehicle Volumes and Speeds in the Parish, and the County Transport Plan
Councillor Batchelor advised that according to the County Transport Plan, HGVs should use the A1307 not the more rural roads.
During the year potholes had been a huge issue. Money had been taken from the road maintenance budget as potholes had taken priority over other maintenance issues.
The Transport Plan did not now exist as the Transport Innovation fund had been abandoned as the introduction of a congestion charge had been voted against.
The Guided Bus should have been open in February 2009 but due to contractual arguments there was a £50m overrun so the busway remained closed. £2.5m had been taken from the Transport Plan to cover legal costs for the busway.
Councillor Batchelor advised that the County Council is carrying out a speed limit survey of all A and B roads in the county. As a consequence staff are not available to action unscheduled reviews.
If the parish council wanted to change the speed limit through the village, as had Streetly End, from 40mph to 30mph, the Highways department have to do a survey to find out what the speed could be and if traffic calming is required. Streetly End had to raise £6,000 to change the signage at each end of the village.
He referred to Carlton Green corner and suggested that as the County Council could not help with speeding round the bend, as there are few houses and they are only on one side of the road, that the residents could use 'speedwatch' as a way of slowing vehicles down. Specific evidence of speeding is required before action can be taken. Any such evidence could be passed to the Clerk.
There are no rules about where HGVs can go unless there is a weight limit on a particular road. Grain lorries usually have specified routes.
- 5 Burrough Green School, New Build Progress
Mr Aguilar-Agon advised that Willmott Dixon had started work on the new school on 3 August 2009 but the work had been delayed because of bad weather affecting the construction of the foundations. Currently the builders are completing first fixings inside the building and cladding the outside. Phase 1 comprises classrooms, the Hall, kitchen and the refurbished old building. This phase is due to be delivered by 1 November 2010 so the transfer over to the new school will take place in half-term. Phase 2 comprises the current school building being knocked down, administration rooms being created and the playground being finished. The work should be complete by Easter 2011.
Mr Aguilar-Agon confirmed that there would be more space in the school for the same size school roll. He also confirmed that there would be more cross-curricular teaching in the future.
- 6 Councillors' Reports on Broader District and County Matters
Councillor Barrett confirmed that the downturn in the economy had been affecting the District Council, vacant posts had not been filled and there had also been less planning applications presented. The waiting list for council houses had increased to 6K people.
The construction of housing on the Marshalls airport site was not going ahead so some other site would need to be found for the expected new homes to be built.
He advised that there were four sessions per year when Parish Councils can meet with the District Council. Members of Cabinet can also attend Parish Council meetings if requested.
There is also a mobile warden scheme, started eight years ago, where someone from the Council visits people who sign up for the scheme.
New rubbish bins are to be provided and the revised pickups will start in October.
Councillor Batchelor advised that there would be no council tax increases for three years.
There would be a 4 % cut in the Government grant year on year. There are currently 2,400 police officers in Cambridgeshire, which is one of the smaller police authorities, and they will need to shed 350 jobs of which 250 will be police officers which will obviously affect response times to call outs.
Julie Spence retired last August.
- 7 Conclusion
The Chairman concluded that Carlton was a small village populated by friendly people.

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