

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

14 May 2015

St PETER'S CHURCH

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

1 Parish Council Report to the Parish

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting at which issues affecting the village can be discussed. He introduced all of the councillors and the clerk.

The Chairman on behalf of the Council thanked Paul Dean for the time and effort he had put in working for the community. As he had stepped down from the Council, there were now a vacancy which needed to be filled. The Chairman requested that if there was anyone interested in standing, they should speak to any of the current councillors after the meeting.

The Chairman announced that the village website had been upgraded. The precept had been increased by 8.1% this financial year to £3,000 but was still one of the smallest precepts in the county, third from bottom out of 92 parishes.

Maintenance work on the War Memorial had been budgeted over two years so the budget has been increased for that.

Noelle Godfrey, Team Lead for Connecting Cambridgeshire, would be updating residents about internet upgrades.

The Chairman had circulated a map of the telephone signal area covered by the new mast at Cocksedge Farm. The next nearest signal area is based at the water tower in Dullingham. The new mast covers a comprehensive area offering a minimum of 2 G, 3G with certain providers and 4G in the future. The foundations for the base have been laid and the service should be available soon.

There were a small number of planning applications during the year, one of which was controversial, the scrapyards at Willingham Green. The parish council made No Recommendation on this application. The application was rejected by the Hearing Panel but there was an appeal but that was also rejected. One of the major reasons for the rejection was the amount of pollution in the ground which meant that up to half a metre of soil would have had to have been taken away from the site. The application was for ten houses, five of which were for affordable housing. The parish council have not heard anything further.

Road safety measures at Carlton Green and Willingham Green are still in progress with Roger Hickford's help. The Willingham Green measures were to take priority once the funding has been arranged.

The bus shelter is showing its age and the parish council is obtaining quotations to replace it and also considering refurbishing it. Questions on this can be taken at the end of the meeting.

2 Footpaths, Bridleway, Trees and wildflowers

Caroline Revitt looks after the footpaths which many villagers used. She had noted that some landowners had not kept the paths clear but after contacting them the paths were now in a good state. Bridges had been replaced and new kissing gates installed. She noted that the green lane becomes very muddy in winter. The parish council is holding approximately £3,600 of S106 money. The criteria under which the money can be spent is strict. Having made enquiries with Council the parish council found that using the monies on footpaths was an option. Many people use the green lane and the surface between the top and bottom of the hill has been supplemented by road asphalt planings which has been successful over the years. Once the path goes to the left, there are large puddles and the surface is uneven. She had met with the Footpaths Officer who had suggested that the situation could be improved by using planings to camber the surface to allow water to run off. 90 or five lorry loads of planings would be needed. Would there be interest from the community to assist in getting the work done.

Andrew Coppen had offered to use his low loader to move the planings. There is quite a lot of undergrowth covering the path making the surface of the road narrow.

The Chairman added that he would leave a list to sign as a show of interest in being part of the work party. The best time of year to do the work would be September.

3 Website

Hedley Francis stated that the village website had been constructed some time ago and could only be altered by himself. Therefore he had re-created the website using a Wiki which allowed other people to update the website. If anyone would like to edit the website or has a particular interest, please let him know. He had added some new photos including aerial photos as well as scans of individual buildings from 1949.

www.Carlton-Cambridgeshire in google takes you to the site.

4 Mobile telephone signal

As discussed in item 1.

5 Broadband

Noelle Godfrey introduced herself as the Head of Digital Infrastructure at Cambridgeshire County Council.

The program for broadband has been rolled out since the end of 2011 but it was realised that it would not benefit rural communities. One third of the country would not get coverage. CCC accessed Government funding which led to the rollout. The Team had to set the Intervention Scope; they needed to show where there was no coverage and Carlton fell within the range. CCC ran their own procurement process and the result was BT and a contract was signed with them in March 2013.

BT's telephone network consists of exchanges and telephone lines. Fibre runs between the exchanges and extended to copper cabinets. As there are shorter distances on copper lines, it is quicker. The distance to the exchange limits the speed. Adding a green box is relatively easy but there is no green box near Carlton, therefore it comes under the Intervention Scope. Thus Carlton is eligible for intervention. Adding a cabinet for Carlton would be a long distance away as it is sited equidistant from Carlton and West Wickham resulting in poor coverage. CCC requested BT to consider bringing a fibre cabinet closer to Carlton. That would need an extra 3-5 km additional fibre cabling. No firm costs are available yet, however the plan looks affordable. It will take 2-3 months for clarification of the scheme and then 9-12 months deployment time before the cabinet goes live. So in 24 mths superfast broadband would be available which is a better solution. The speed depends on the geography of the village. The further your home is located from the cabinet, the lower the speed, but you might be served by neighbouring cabinets.

She confirmed that there is no statutory duty to provide a broadband service. CCC, however, are committed to getting everyone on board. Options will be available for areas not covered.

She will let the village know as soon as a decision is made.

6 Report by the County Councillor

Cllr Hickford referred to his report which covered a number of issues:

- Skipper's Lane – the cost of the road re-alignment will be £350k this year and £50k from next year's budget.
- A1307 He noted that many villages are used as rat-runs to avoid using the A1307. The road has been elevated to a primary scheme as part of the City Funding. The study covering potential solutions to transport between Haverhill and Four Wentways should be completed by December/January 2016.
- The Clerk is to distribute his report
- 4,000 houses are planned to be built in Haverhill by 2030
- In Cambridge the forecast is 33k houses to be built. The Government have to build houses but there is no money for infrastructure
- The Local Enterprise Scheme is to fund the A1307
- A14 – the projected date for completion of the Cambridge to Huntingdon section is 2018
- The County Council need to identify how many food banks are needed. Within South Cambridgeshire's wealthy parts there are pockets of children living in poverty. The County Council will try to identify services which can help but some services have been transferred from Cambridgeshire Community Services to CPFT. The County's biggest concern is the ageing population and the lowering of budgets. School budgets are ring-fenced so the cuts must be shared by the other council services.
- Community resilience – how can the County Council help? In bigger communities, people can get lost. The County Council have not done a survey as yet.

7 Report by District Councillors

Councillor Fraser introduced Councillor Turner who is replacing Councillor Barrett and reported on the following:-

- Planning and roads had most time spent on them in the last 12 months
- The ageing population in South Cambridgeshire needs looking after

- The feedback from other communities regarding superfast broadband is that they are disappointed with the speed which is still slow
- Scrapyard – there is still more work to be done on the City and South Cambs planning policies
- the brother of Richard Turner is the portfolio holder for planning and may be able to attend the next parish council meeting
- climate change – academics say that it will be too late by 2020 to start thinking about recycling. At SCDC there is no policy on renewable energy

8 Questions

- Sinking roadways – Councillor Hickford advised that faults such as these needed to be reported via the website. Nicola Burden is the Highways Officer who would deal with this but he could speak to her once provided with the fault number

9 Conclusion

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm with refreshment being made available to all attending.