

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in St Peter's Church Carlton On Thursday 27 November 2014

Present: - Stephen Roberts, Hedley Francis, Michael Mann, Roger Hickford - County Councillor, Richard Barrett - District Councillor, Andrew Fraser – District Councillor

Edith Osborn as Clerk

1 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Paul Dean and Caroline Revitt. A quorum was present.

2 Declarations of Interest

No councillor had any new interests to declare.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 August 2014.

Michael Mann proposed that the minutes be accepted and Hedley Francis seconded the proposal.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2014 were approved.

4 Finance

4.1 Payments proposed for authorisation were:

4.1.1 CGM Ltd chq 265	£ 96.00
4.1.2 CGM Ltd	£ 96.00
4.1.3 Burrough Green archives	£ 50.00
4.1.4 Clerk's expenses	£ 7.44

The payments were authorised.

4.2 Receipts, payments and reconciliation as at 31 October 2014

Stephen Roberts proposed that the accounts as at 31 October 2014 be approved and Hedley Francis seconded the proposal.

5.3 Precept 2015/16 as attached

The Clerk reviewed the proposed precept which she had set at £3,000 for the coming year.

She noted that CAPALC had proposed increasing their membership fees which disproportionately affected small councils such as Carlton. The current fee is £67 and it could increase to £130. It was decided that the Clerk would feed back to CAPALC the council's views on an increase of 94%.

The donation to the Church for use of the building for meetings had remained the same for many years and it was decided that the Council should increase the sum by the rate of inflation, currently 2%.

The Clerk had added £200 for road safety measures as the council had previously been advised that in order for new traffic measures to be considered, the council required to provide 10% of the money.

It was agreed that £300 should remain in the precept as further maintenance work was needed on the War Memorial, mainly for lettering.

Michael Mann proposed that the precept be £3,000 and this was seconded by Hedley Francis.

5 Planning.

5.1 S/2385/14/FL Conversion of office & store to dwelling - Pinehawk Kennels

It was noted that planning permission had been granted on the basis that the house was occupied by an employee of the Kennels.

5.2 Scrapyard re-development – Willingham Green

The Chairman reviewed the hearing in October. Most residents of Willingham Green attended the hearing. The application was not granted for a number of reasons; the proposers of the scheme had not prepared their case fully, there was also concern that

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SCDC and ECDC's policies were not up to date, the statement provided by Brinkley PC that they had no requirement for social housing also helped to prevent the application being granted.

Many residents are still concerned about what will happen to the site and they would like the land to be re-developed appropriately. For any development, a half metre of soil would need to be taken away from the 4 acre site.

It was questioned whether the site needed to be cleared anyway as oil is still affecting the water courses further down from the site. The residents could complain to the Environment Agency and obtain an Enforcement Order.

5.3 S/2673/14/FL telecommunications mast at Cocksedge Farm

It was noted that the mast would benefit the community by offering an increased signal for all phone services as a 3G signal was being provided with a 4G service to be offered in the future.

At present, a good proportion of the village cannot get any sort of mobile phone signal, so making the use of such phones in their homes impossible. This was felt to be of concern not only for domestic purposes, but also in the context of business use. It was agreed that within the area where no signal is achieved that there were quite a number of people who work from home, and that their work is consequently negatively affected by having no mobile phone communication available to them.

The councillors decided that the potential benefits of enhanced communication to the community as a whole by having such a mast in-situ outweighed any environmental concerns that some residents may have about it.

All of the councillors voted in favour of the application.

6 Environmental

6.1 Grass cutting for next season

The timings of the spring cuts will be discussed with Caroline Revitt before the season commences.

6.2 Footpaths

The Chairman reported that a lot of work had been completed on footpaths within the Parish and were now of a good standard.

The Chairman suggested that the Clerk write to Peter Copen to thank him for his work around the pond at the top of the byway.

The Chairman noted that there is a blockage affecting the ditch in Acre Road and the water has been pouring down the road. The Clerk will contact Thurlow Estate Farms to see if anything can be done.

6.3 Application to Wadlow Wind Farm Fund

The Chairman agreed to contact Paul Dean for an update on the Council's application.

6.4 Broadband

It was noted that no 'green box' had been installed in the village which indicated that increased broadband would not be available soon.

6.5 Sewerage at Carlton Green update

The application to Anglian Water for sewerage at Carlton Green had been rejected.

6.6 Poppy Wreath

It was agreed to purchase a wreath from the Poppy Fund but not to make a donation to the Fund.

6.7 Church building/S106 monies

The Chairman advised that he had been in contact with James Fisher at SCDC and Jane Logan at the Diocese regarding the costs and maintenance of the Church. The Clerk advised that having sought advice from the Society of Local Council Clerks on the use of S106 money to support the Church, it was clear that the council did not have the power to contribute to the fabric of the Church. Further consideration would need to be given to the possible usage of the S106 monies.

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7 District Councillor's report

CLr Barrett reported on a number of issues:

- There is still some money available up to £1,500 per application under the Community Chest funding scheme. The Council could possibly apply for the purchase of a new bus shelter.
- There will be no refuse collection over the Christmas period. Green bins will be picked up once per month over the winter period. SCDC will be joining up with Cambridge City for refuse services.
- The SCDC magazine will be delivered by 14 December.
- The Boundary review will not affect Carlton.
- As with refuse services, SCDC Building Control department will share services with Huntingdon District Council. Next to share services will be the Legal and IT departments across SCDC, Cambridge City and Huntingdon DC. This should save £250k per annum.
- SCDC are hosting VJ Day on 15 August 2015.
- There is a fund available (£16.5k) for elite athletes to help them to attain a higher level in their sport. The athlete can claim up to £2k per annum. The deadline for applications is 31 December 2014.
- It has been decided that the proposal for unitary authorities is not the best way forward as it is more flexible and more efficient to join with other groups as and when required.
- SCDC in partnership with Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Council will work together to prioritise transport projects over the next five years.

8 County Councillor's report

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

- The Boundary Review took place 6 months ago and SCDC were approached resulting in perhaps SCDC only having one councillor at County level.
- The Highways budget is being cut, the level of gritting will be reduced over the winter such that 44% of roads were previously gritted but that will reduce to 32%. Skippers Lane junction will be gritted.
- Under the Highways Improvement Scheme, 82 out of 102 councils applied for funding but the budget is only £102k.

9 General observations or matters for consideration at the next meeting

The Chairman noted that Helen Coppen would no longer be organising the oil syndicate and that it had folded. He queried how the Council could keep in contact with residents as there would not be an up-to-date list of email addresses.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 12 February 2015 at 8pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.25pm.