

# CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

9 May 2019

### St PETER'S CHURCH

Present: Stephen Roberts (Chairman),  
Giles Dobson, Kate Homan, Matthew Smith  
Edith Osborn as Clerk, Cllr Geoff Harvey – District Councillor  
A number of members of the public.

#### 1 Welcome

The Chairman gave a warm welcome to those attending the annual meeting. He introduced himself as Chairman for the ninth year and then introduced the councillors to members of the public. Hedley Francis had resigned from the Council and he offered Hedley the council's best wishes for their move into their new home.

The Chairman also introduced Geoff Harvey as the District Councillor. He then introduced Peter Gaskin, the Public Rights of Way Officer, who had kindly agreed to talk to residents about his role at Cambridgeshire County Council.

#### 2 My role at Cambridgeshire County Council

Peter Gaskin advised that he has been looking after bridleways, byways and footpaths since 1 April 1998. His area covers the whole of South Cambridgeshire and 101 parishes so he is quite busy.

There are only three Officers to cover Cambridgeshire, Hunts and Fenland and to contact farmers about re-instating footpaths etc. The Officers have to work within the legislation eg resting birds cannot be disturbed. He also looks after small bridges. His role has changed considerably over the years due to lack of funding. Examples of where the money is spent are as follows: replacing signposts - £2k, seasonal lucking and unlocking gates - £10k, scrub works - £7k. byways are often repaired using road planings at night for which he is allowed compensatory leave. The byway in Carlton is open to all traffic. He recently had a report by a horse rider that he had been pulled from his horse due to the vegetation on the byway. The previous hedge laying along the River Stour had grown up and there is also vegetation on the other side making it difficult to move along the path. The Ecology Officer has advised that there are rare plants on the byway.

Over the years planings have been laid on the byway and in small spots near the Stour.

He noted that a discharge of water onto the roadway is an offence. The gates can be closed if the ground is too soft near the Stour.

He mentioned the Parish Paths Partnership Scheme which has some money which could help with the parish council plans.

The Chairman advised that S106 monies had been used for planings on the byway. Many people use the byway so the byway is a resource which the council would like to maintain.

Mr Gaskin advised that Highways are responsible for the surface of the highways and there are riparian agreements relating to the hedgerows and ditches.

Stiles have generally been replaced by kissing gates.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gaskin for his time attending the meeting and the information provided.

#### 3 Parish Council Report to the Parish

The Chairman proposed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting in 2018 be approved and this was seconded by Giles Dobson.

The Chairman advised that the precept had been increased slightly from last year by £300 but the parish was still in the bottom three councils for having the smallest precept.

He noted that the parishioners had rallied to the purchase of a defibrillator for the village and it was installed in November 2018. It had to be used earlier in 2019. At the training, it was brought home to parishioners how important it was to have the defibrillator available. The VETS scheme was also discussed. When someone phones the emergency services, under the scheme, the call is auto-linked to ten individuals in the community who can pick up the defibrillator in person to attend. The Heartbeat Trust have still to confirm how many numbers per person on the list of contacts are required. He thanked Colin Farrant for offering to be the point of contact.

The Millenium Footpath is well used, it was constructed at the turn of the century. It is not a dedicated footpath but is situated on leased land from Thurlow Estates. It is showing its age, the wood edgings have decayed and the surface holds water. The parish council had funds available but

needed more so applied to the Wadlow Wind Farm as one of the nine parishes surrounding the Farm. The parish council received a grant of money and John Mingay, local builder and groundworker, was employed to start work this month. He says that he will be working as quickly as possible.

The Chairman also noted that work parties had been gathered together to keep the byway clear. The precept had been increased to deal with the increase in speeding within the village. The parish council had bought a share of two speed indicator devices, £400 paid out of £6,700 total to cover the surrounding villages. Derek Crosby, Cambridgeshire's Traffic management Officer, had attended the Parish Meeting last year and provided his thoughts on speeding in the three parts of the village. The parish council had thereafter made LHI scheme applications for Carlton and Carlton Green but were disappointed that they were not successful in their bids. The Scheme disadvantaged smaller councils, those that offered the minimum 10% contribution. The parish council's contribution was 18% of the precept. Other councils: Histon, Swavesey, Bassingbourn and Sawston seemed to be successful due to their size. Carlton cannot compete with larger councils. The Department of Transport says that speed limits in rural villages should be 30mph. The County Council in the past have said that as Carlton did not have houses on both sides of the road, we could not have a lower speed limit.

Any potholes within the parish can be reported to the County Council via their website instead of alerting the Chairman.

Fortunately there is a low crime rate with only four offences in the parish, two of which were for burglary. The Chairman sends out via email safety advice as is relevant at the time.

The parish council has input into SCDC's planning applications. There have been four applications this year, most prominent was for the scrapyards. The major issue with this land is the pollution in the soil. The application went to Appeal and was approved for four houses to be built. There is also an ongoing planning application currently.

There was a complaint of flooding in Acre Road last year. The Flood Prevention Officer attended and suggested remedies which lead to all residents and landowners receiving letters regarding their riparian responsibilities for the ditches. There is still an outstanding issue where the water flows from one side to another.

Kate Homan sits on the Wadlow Windfarm Fund Committee as representative of Carlton The Committee is looking for other organisations to make applications to the fund.

The Chairman advised that he can communicate with 95% of the residents in the village by email due to the small size of the village.

The Chairman felt lucky with the community as many people attend events which are arranged in the village.

#### 4 Footpaths, Bridleway, Trees and wildflowers

Josephine Roberts advised that new trees had been planted on the bridleway and on the roadside. Wildflowers have been appearing on the Millennium Bank.

Some of the trees in the parish have been affected by ash dieback.

Markers have been added to posts to mark footpaths this year.

Damaged bridges have been reported and replaced except for the bridge off Peter Coppen's driveway where the handle has not been replaced.

It has been noticed that when the ditches have been dug out, much litter has been found.

#### 5 Report by District Councillor

Councillor Geoff Harvey reported that Bridget Smith, the leader of SCDC, is making huge efforts to keep the Council functioning while there is an change of Chief Executive due to retirement. Councillor Pippa Heylings, Chairman of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee, has worked hard to improve SCDC's impression.

There is a refit of the Council offices to reduce costs and the carbon footprint. The Council is also being creative in investing to create income for the Council.

The Council aims to provide genuine affordable housing and hopes for results this year.

The Council has announced a Zero Carbon Communities Grant of £15K.

The Council is also upgrading insulation in community buildings, creating cycle paths, using solar panels and planting trees.

The Council is also reviewing homes which have been left empty and considering increasing tax on them.

Review of Applications for housing schemes submitted before the Local Plan was in place.

- 6 Report by the County Councillor  
Councillor Henry Batchelor commented as follows:  
There is a shortfall in housing up to last year. ECDC threw out the Local Plan so there has been much speculative housing applications.  
The County Council are responsible for: schools, libraries, adult social care, money which is ring-fenced, waste disposal and highways.  
The council offices will be moving to a purpose built premises in Alconbury. Central government reduces money given to the county each year so Cambridgeshire County Council have to come up with ideas on how to save money. They intend saving £55m this year.  
The Greater Cambridge Partnership has been given a large amount of money by central government to improve roads around Cambridge. So far a bus lane has been created on the A1307. The money needs to be spent or may lose it. Further work on the A1307 might include re-modelling the Dean Road junction, creating a roundabout at Bartlow Road turning. All schemes to be considered over the next two financial years.  
Reducing speed limits – the feedback to Highways is that this is negative for smaller parishes who make an application for a reduced speed limit in their village. Solutions may be to possibly increase the time to put forward a case and have further training for members on the Panel.
- 7 Questions  
Willingham Green scrapyard – residents do not know the outcome of the planning application. A Decision Notice had not been issued.
- 8 Conclusion  
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.38 pm with refreshment being made available to all attending.