

# CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

19 June 2014

### St PETER'S CHURCH

Present: Stephen Roberts (Chairman), Michael Mann, Caroline Revitt,  
Hedley Francis, Paul Dean  
Cllrs Richard Barrett and Andrew Fraser - SCDC,  
Edith Osborn as Clerk.  
Apologies: Cllr Hickford - CCC  
A number of members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed parishioners to the meeting.

#### 1 Parish Council Report to the Parish

The Chairman welcomed in particular the new residents to the village as a number of houses had been for sale recently and advised them of who the councillors were.

The Chairman on behalf of the Council thanked Malcolm Stennett and John Coppen for the many years of service to the village. As they had both stepped down from the Council, there were now two vacancies which needed to be filled. The Chairman encouraged everyone to think of residents who might be interested in standing as a councillor.

The Chairman noted that the precept was 8.3% higher than the other figures on the Council Tax bill due to the costs of cleaning the War Memorial which was fitting as the 100 year anniversary was being celebrated this year. He had spoken to Mr Archer, Headmaster at Burrough Green School, who had expressed interest in bringing some of the children to carry out projects based on the siting of the War Memorial and the names thereon. He noted that the Parish Council had taken on responsibility for arranging for a poppy wreath and crosses for Remembrance weekend.

Grass cutting of the verges happen four times per year. The first cut was on 10 May and parishioners should contact councillors if more cuts are required.

The new dog bin at the top of the by-way is being emptied by SCDC.

The Connecting Cambridgeshire website states that Carlton would have access to faster broadband at some point between March and September 2015 but there is no indication yet of speed.

Seven planning applications were reviewed last year and were all approved except the one for the construction of ten dwellings at Willingham Green. The application was discussed at an Extraordinary meeting supported by Cllr Fraser. The outcome was No Recommendation and a report was submitted to the Council. The planning application was turned down but it has gone to appeal and the result is awaited.

Turning to Finance, the parish council holds £3,617 received through a S106 agreement as a result of construction of a new house in the village. The agreement specifies conditions on how the money is spent so any ideas would be welcomed.

Crime is low in the village. He noted that anyone can register for e-cops to see what is happening in the neighbourhood.

Residents of Carlton Green are interested in being added to mains drainage and are in contact with Anglian Water but it is an on-going process.

Road safety measures have been discussed over the last year and also the wind turbines.

A village survey was carried out last year and the Chairman thanked Caroline Revitt for putting the survey together, collating the results and preparing the report.

Quality of life is still high in this rural village, however, Cambridge came low in the happiness levels.

It is the fastest growing county but there are pressures on other areas to build houses.

The minutes of the previous Parish Meeting were proposed for approval by Michael Mann and seconded by Caroline Revitt.

#### 2 Wind turbine – funding for local projects

Councillor Dean reported that the Wind Farm had 340k to be spent in the local community which covered seven villages. Carlton can apply although not the whole of the Parish falls within the 5km circle of the wind farm. There is a lot of due diligence to check the applications: three quotations are required, £2.5k was allocated to the Linton Book Fair, some money was allocated to the memorial plaque in Brinkley and for insulation in the Brinkley Memorial Hall. The Guides in Brinkley applied for

camping equipment and Playgroup also applied for funding, so a number of varied projects have been considered.

The Parish Council are considering the bus shelter as a project. Are there other suggestions?

The next round of applications can be made in September and the parish council intend to submit an application.

3 Road safety in Willingham Green/Carlton Green

Councillor Dean applied for funding for road safety measures at the end of 2012 but the application was put on the reserve list. He applied again in 2013 but only one application per parish is allowed so the wording of the application needs to be reviewed before applying once again.

4 Footpaths, Bridleway, Trees and wildflowers

Councillor Revitt advised that the footpaths are generally in good condition. There is a new kissing gate at Reads' farm and the bridge over the Stour has been replaced.

Oak trees have been planted at Willingham Green which once was a woodland parish, more could be planted.

The pond at the top of the byway has been cleared and more trees could be planted there.

Some mature ash trees have blown down over the Stour but generally nothing has been done about ash dieback.

She noted that the wildflower bank had grown well this year.

A question was raised about the ivy growing on the trees down the byway. Councillor Revitt noted that there was two schools of thought on this, one of which was that ivy attacks weaker trees.

5 Report by the District Councillors

Councillor Barrett had prepared a joint report with Andrew Fraser.

Councillor Barrett reported on the following:-

Planning – The District Council has had to prepare a plan for the next 50 years covering large developments such as Bourne Airfield and Northstowe. The Council have tried to avoid building in small villages.

There is now a shortage of staff at Cambourne due to cuts.

The District Council is one of the best councils for getting rent monies in and taxes paid. Business rate receipts are recovered at 99.1% and ordinary rates at 98.5%.

The government reduced its funding of the Council which meant a £900k saving in its budget.

The Council has a new housing company which can build houses for rent and for sale. It has £7m to start with. 100 properties are to be built in the next 12-18 months, £204m is to be spent over the next 30 years to buy properties.

Community Chest – this scheme is still going. Councils can apply for £1,500 for a village project.

Recycling- SCDC is 13<sup>th</sup> in the country for efficient recycling. There will be a cut back on green bin recycling in the winter

Fly tipping is still a problem across south Cambridgeshire

IT- £40k has been saved by IT. Members are now responsible for their own equipment.

SCDC are looking at sharing services with other authorities such as refuse collection which should lead to savings.

Contact Centre – Contacting the Council has been reviewed and alterations made so that response to telephone calls is within 3-4minutes.

Milton Country Park has an open day on 28 June 2014.

6 Questions

Q – in Balsham there is a small development which has been taken over by a housing association

A – there are usually 3-4 houses within villages allocated for social housing

Q – Does the local plan take account of infrastructure when more people move to an area?

A – Yes it does

Q – the footpaths have not been cut this year near the kennels

A – Thurlow Estate have been made aware of this

Q – Can any more planings be laid next to the Stour?

A – As it is a byway at that point it would come under Highways maintenance and should be reported on their website in the same way as a pothole. Planings are given to farmers to lay near kissing gates. The council could apply for planings through the Community Chest

Q – Could we have a village representative to promote broadband?

A – A representative will be sought. BT are still deciding on the strength of the broadband.

7 Conclusion

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm with refreshment being made available to all attending.