

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held On Thursday 9 November 2023

Present: - Kate Homan, Polly Fenwick, Paul Archer, Robert Foster, Nicki Whetstone, Henry Batchelor - County Councillor, Geoff Harvey – District Councillor
Edith Osborn as Clerk

- 1 **Apologies:** Kat Jones
A quorum was present.
- 2 **Minutes** of the Meeting held on 3 August 2023 and 19 October 2023.
Kate Homan proposed that the minutes be approved and Paul Archer seconded the proposal.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest**
No councillor had any new interests to declare.
- 4 **Open forum for public participation**
Nicki Whetstone arrived.
There were no parishioners present.
- 5 **Administration**
 - 5.1 Councillor Vacancy
The Chair expressed the council's thanks to Giles Dobson for his work on the council and were grateful for his guidance and advice over nearly ten years.
There was some discussion on who might be approached to sit on the council.
 - 5.2 New signatory on bank account
Polly Fenwick agreed to be the replacement signatory in place of Giles Dobson.
 - 5.3 Planning application procedure
The Chair reported that CAPALC had advised that planning applications should be an Agenda item and should be discussed in person.
It was noted that Willingham Green residents felt that they did not know about the recent planning applications in Willingham Green.
It was decided that in future planning applications would be emailed to everyone on the village mailing list when an application is received.
Kat Jones requested that she be notified of the next planning application training course.
 - 5.4 Freedom of Information requests
The Chair reminded the councillors that the council pays a fee via CAPLAC for advice and the recent email request was not considered to be such a request.
The NALC guidance would be circulated.
 - 5.5 Website launch
The new village website had not been publicised yet. The Chair agreed to circulate the address via the email list and WhatsApp. The Clerk advised that the News section is partly set up and can be populated with information.
Robert Foster will forward the scans of the Carlton Buttercup which will be added to the website.
 - 5.6 Management of the defibrillator
Management of the defibrillator has been taken over by a different resident in the village. The Chair is to check the list of people on the Responders list to ensure that it is up to date.
 - 5.7 Broadband champion
Kat Jones had agreed to be the Broadband Champion and will contact Stephen Roberts to take this forward.

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5.8 Grass cutting contract

A quote had been obtained from McGregor Services who cut the verges for some local parish councils and they had offered a quote of £150 per cut. As CGM have not been reliable regarding attendance in the village and ensuring completion of four cuts per season, Kate Homan proposed that the quote by McGregor Services be accepted and Polly Fenwick seconded the proposal.

5.9 Wadlow Wind Farm Panel appointment

It was agreed that Robert Foster would attend the Zoom meeting on 23 November.

5.10 Request for funding – Magpas

Geoff Harvey arrived

It was decided to postpone this item until the end of the financial year.

6 Finance

6.1 Payments proposed for authorisation were:

6.1.1 Thurlow Estate Mgt chq no 421	£ 1.00
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6.1.2 CAPALC chq no 422	£ 50.00
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Kate Homan proposed that the payments be approved and Robert Foster seconded the proposal.

6.2 Receipts, payments and reconciliation as at 31 October 2023

Kate Homan proposed that the accounts as at 31 October 2023 be approved and Paul Archer seconded the proposal.

5.3 Precept 2024/25

The proposed budget was reviewed.

The Chair advised that the council had funds available to pay for Carlton's contribution to the LHI scheme for the current year but if a further LHI application was made for Willingham Green the budget would need to be increased from the level proposed by the Clerk.

Kate Homan proposed that the precept be increased to £5,500 and the proposal was seconded by Paul Archer.

7 Planning.

7.1 Willingham Green scrapyards applications

The Chair advised that the applications had not yet been decided and that the Principal Planning Officer was taking the applications to Committee for discussion. Geoff Harvey agreed to support the call-in.

8 Environmental

8.1 LHI applications – current and future

The LHI scheme for Carlton is at the design stage and no objections have been raised to the design. The scheme has been published and one resident had put forward suggestions particularly relating to the bend in Brinkley Road as cars approach Carlton at speed and therefore the signs would be better located further out from the bend.

All agreed that it would be better to have all the work completed now and that the budget needed to be increased by £800 to cover the refreshed road markings.

It is intended to submit another application for speed reduction in Willingham Green next year. The deadline for applications is 12 January 2024 and a webinar on LHI schemes is available on 5 January 2024

8.2 Road surfaces/gulleys

It was noted that the gulleys near the Old School House need emptying.

Also, Church Road needs to be re-surfaced.

Henry Batchelor advised that residents should use the county council portal to report problems and also email Bradley Southwell.

8.3 Flooding on B1052 and Brinkley Road

The Chair reported that she had been in contact with the resident in Brinkley Road who had sent information and photos of the flooding to Bradley Southwell who is

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trying to raise the repairs to the road up the job list. At the time of the last flood outside the house, a tanker was sent to pump the water away.

Robert Foster advised that when the B1052 was flooded last time, the water nearly entered his house and his neighbour's. The farm manager from D'Abo Estate did inspect the situation and will try to maintain the watercourse towards Willingham Green Road. The paddock next door is not owned by the Estate.

He noted that the Council's out of hours service did not perform well and he was passed from service to service to get some action on the flooding.

He agreed to investigate some funding for equipment to help with future floods.

8.4 Climate Change issues

Robert Foster attended an event in September on green funding of projects which were aimed at larger projects eg community grants. He offered to circulate the slides from the event.

The Climate Action Guide for smaller councils suggests: collaboration with other councils; engage with the local community; try to implement some change.

He noted that the Zero Carbon Communities grant was claimed as useful in a recent case study.

8.5 Footpaths

It was noted that the Millenium Footpath had been damaged by the grass cutters.

The foliage by the Stour has still not been cut back.

8.6 Community Gritting Scheme

After some discussion of the scheme, it was decided not to register.

8.7 Electricity transformer

A new transformer is to be erected in the middle of the village due to EV charging and battery charging exceeding the capacity in this area. Usage is being monitored currently.

9 District Councillor's report

Geoff Harvey advised that feedback from parish councils is useful and therefore please continue.

The district council is supplying free electric blankets.

There will be another consultation on the Local Plan to see how developments are getting closer to net zero.

10 County Councillor's report

Henry Batchelor advised that all current points could be found in his report.

11 General observations or matters for consideration at the next meeting

Nicki Whetstone offered her apologies for the next meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input this evening.

The Meeting closed at 10.07pm.