

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in St Peters Church On Thursday 8 August 2024

Present: - Kate Homan, Paul Archer, Polly Fenwick, Robert Foster, Robert Ensich, Greg Franco, Edith Osborn as Clerk, Henry Batchelor - County Councillor

One parishioner.

A quorum was established.

- 1 **Apologies:** Nicki Whetstone, Geoff Harvey – District Councillor
- 2 **Minutes** of Meeting held on 14 May 2024.
Kate Homan proposed that the minutes of the last meeting be approved and this was seconded by Paul Archer.
- 3 **Declarations of Interest**
There were no new Declarations of Interest.
- 4 **Open forum for public participation**
No requirement.
- 5 **County Councillor's report**
Henry Batchelor advised that the combined District and County Council report had been distributed.
He commented on some of the items as follows:
--Cambridge, under the previous government, was to be expanded by 250k houses, later reduced to 150k houses. The new government, being keen on housebuilding are carrying on with this policy and Northstowe has been specifically identified as an area to expand. Currently 1.5k houses have been built out of the 10k houses programmed for the site. Cambridgeshire County Council are keen to find out if further expansion is planned, which will be most likely along national highway routes.
A new town of 80-90k houses is being built in Bedfordshire. New settlements are proposed for Soham.
--Two proposals providing green energy have been made for West Wickham and on A1307 at Haverhill. The one at West Wickham has been agreed and it will take 4 years to complete. As the other one is so close, will there be a need for one so close. The planners will discuss and a decision will be made by the end of the summer. It was noted that more people in Haverhill have voiced their opposition to it than people in West Wickham. Another consideration is where will the energy be transferred to in the county/ country.
--There has been a new proposal for a solar farm running from West Wrating/Balsham to the A11 covering 900 hectares. Sunnica received approval recently for a solar farm around Burwell, the cumulative effect of this is that this area would lose high grade farming land.
--The CCC decision on LHI bids has been postponed until September. The Carlton bid is considered complex so the decision will have to wait until the Council's next meeting.
--Henry suggested Kate Homan write to the Head of Flood Resilience as she had not heard anything about the flooding issues in the parish.
--Henry agreed to investigate what the highway improvements will be on Brinkley Road as the road will be closed at some point in the next few months.

Henry Batchelor left the meeting.

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6 Administration

6.1 Speed Indicator devices

Paul Archer reported that less and less people in the SID group were able to download the data from the speed indicator devices and they will become obsolete soon. It is likely to cost £3-5k to buy a replacement device. Various options were proposed to fund this acquisition: community, crowd funding, Community Chest grant, Wadlow Wind Farm grant.

Robert Foster advised that Carlton had not made any application for some time so the Panel may be open to considering an application from the village. He agreed to ask the Panel at the next meeting.

6.2 New Village Benches

The Clerk advised that two further benches had been purchased using a Community Chest grant. There was £12.11 remaining in the Parish accounts which would be used to purchase bulbs to plant around the benches.

6.3 Defibrillator

Training on the use of the defibrillator has been completed by some residents in the village and was considered useful and thorough. Kate Homan will circulate the contact numbers around the village so that in an emergency the VETS number is to hand.. Polly Fenwick will circulate via WhatsApp.

6.4 Cabinet/Parish Council Liaison meetings

The next meeting is on Thursday 19 September between 4.30pm and 6pm. The Agenda will be forwarded shortly by the Council. A councillor is to attend.

6.5 A1307 Parish Forum report

Kate Homan agreed it was worthwhile for the parishes to keep meeting up. Each parish takes turns to host the meeting. Paul Archer agreed to request Horseheath for an update from the last meeting.

6.6 Wadlow Wind Farm Panel report

Robert Foster advised that the council should consider what could be applied for as a request would be favourably looked upon as we do not request anything for our community. Wadlow Wind Farm grants are based on match funding. He agreed to enquire about a possible grant.

6.7 Equal Opportunities Policy Review

The Clerk advised that she had made no changes to the policy.

Kate Homan proposed that this policy be continued and Robert Ensich seconded the proposal.

7 Finance

7.1 Payments proposed for authorisation were:

7.1.1	Village Voice chq 434	£ 150.00
7.1.2	Business Services at CAS chq 435	£ 274.13
7.1.3	Josephine Roberts chq 436	£ 680.84
7.1.4	Community Heartbeat Trust chq 437	£ 210.00
7.1.5	McGregor Services chq 438	£ 180.00
7.1.6	SLCC chq 439	£ 80.00
7.1.7	Edith Osborn	£ 22.38
7.1.8	McGregor Services	£ 180.00

It was noted that the verge cutting schedule needs revision as the verges have not been improved by changing the contractor. It was suggested that a request could be made to Wadlow Wind Farm for a grant to buy a strimmer for the village. This topic will be discussed further.

The Payments above were proposed for approval by Kate Homan and seconded by Robert Foster.

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7.2 Receipts, payments and reconciliation as at 31 July 2024.

The receipts, payments and reconciliation as at 31 July 2024 were proposed for acceptance by Kate Homan and seconded by Paul Archer.

8 Planning.

8.1 24/02925/FUL land adj to Pond Cottage – erection of 2 bed dwelling

It was noted that parking in front of the plot might be an issue as that part of the road narrows and is also used for parking to attend Church. Agricultural vehicles need to use that road to access the farm.

Kate Homan proposed that the application was approved and Robert Foster seconded the motion. All councillors supported the proposal.

8.2 Willingham Green scrapyard

The Chair noted that a planning application had been submitted and that she would convene a separate meeting to discuss the application.

Robert Foster and Kate Homan had been approached by the applicants who wanted to put forward their plans for part of the site. This meeting had taken place in the previous few weeks and therefore both councillors declared an interest in item 8.2 through prior knowledge of the application.

At the last Extraordinary meeting to discuss the planning applications for the Scrapyard in October 2023, the residents of Willingham Green had held different views on how the site should be developed and were keen to be consulted.

It was agreed that an Extraordinary meeting would be held to discuss the application and that the Planning Officer would be invited.

The Chair agreed to contact Geoff Harvey regarding when the next Planning meeting at which this application would be discussed and find out a date when he could attend the Extraordinary meeting.

It was noted that there are many documents which need to be reviewed prior to the meeting

9 Environment

9.1 LHI bid

A decision on the application to reduce the speed limit through Willingham Green will be delayed, as noted earlier.

9.2 Flooding on Brinkley Road and in Willingham Green

As no progress had been made the Chair will draft a letter to the Flood Resilience team at Highways.

9.3 Footpaths

The Chair noted that there had been an accident on a bridge recently. The bridge has been repaired by the County Council. It was agreed that WhatsApp would be used to alert residents to any other potential problems with footpaths and bridges.

9.4 Road surfaces/gulleys

It was noted that the gulleys need regular flushing.

9.5 Climate Change issues

It was agreed to add BioDiversity to the next Agenda.

9.6 Management of the Churchyard vegetation

It was noted that Josephine Roberts had met with the Wildlife Trust who had been commissioned by the Diocese to advise on maintaining churchyards and incorporate a wildlife area. She had circulated a management plan to some people in the village. It will be added to the council website.

10 District Councillor's report

No report was available.

11 General observations or matters for consideration at the next meeting

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

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- Name change. The Clerk will contact the Monitoring Officer
- HR Committee to be set up

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 14 November 2024 at 8pm.

The Meeting closed at 10.23pm.