

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in St Peters Church On Tuesday 4 August 2026

Present: - Polly Fenwick, Greg Franco, Kat Jones, James Buxton, Jo Bennett, Edith Osborn as Clerk, Henry Batchelor - County Councillor, Tom Boden

A quorum was established.

1 Apologies: Robert Ensich, Geoff Harvey – District Councillor

2 Declarations of Interest
There were no new Declarations of Interest.

3 Minutes of Meeting held on 12 May 2026.
James Buxton proposed that the minutes of the last meeting be approved and this was seconded by Kat Jones.

4 Open forum for public participation
No parishioners attended.

5 County Councillors' report
Henry Batchelor advised that the combined District and County Council report had been distributed.
He reported on the following topics:
-Local Plan – the Greater Cambridge Local Plan covering development of the area over the next 20 years is in the final round of a consultation ending in September. He recommended that as many residents as possible commented on the proposed sites. After the closing date the Plan will be assessed by the Government Planning Inspector who will give final approval.
-Kingsway – SCDC are waiting for Kingsway to re-submit their revised application.
-Forest City – this proposal is not included in any central government plan or local plan. There is currently not enough support to get proposals through.
-Local government re-organisation – he is expecting some debate about which option will be selected but the final option will not be known until October which will leave less time to prepare for the administration change next year.
-Grange Farm – Kat Jones had recently attended a meeting regarding this proposed site and felt that although it is some distance from Carlton that residents will be affected. Henry Batchelor advised that building cannot start until at least 2034 as that is when the reservoir in Fenland is due for completion. The risk of damage to the chalk aquifer running through the site will have to be mitigated.
-Development Corporation – this body is separate to the District Council and its planning proposals. The Development Corporation could plan to develop other sites than those selected by the District Council.
It was noted that Strategic sites are those which are greater than 250 houses and will be considered by the Development Corporation rather than locally.

Henry Batchelor left the meeting.

6 Administration
6.1 Co-option of councillor
The Chair welcomed Tom Boden who had offered to stand as a councillor. Greg Franco proposed that he be co-opted to the council and Kat Jones seconded the proposal.

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

6.2 Save Abington Villages Environment membership

The Clerk had received a request from the above group requesting support to stand against the Grange Farm proposal.

The Local Plan proposes 44k new houses to be built in Cambridgeshire, 75% are already located on existing sites with 25% on new sites.

Grange Farm was originally proposed to be built on the sewerage treatment works north of the A14 but as the treatment works have not moved location, Abington was chosen as an alternative site.

It was proposed that the parish council inform residents of Grange Farm and ask them if they want the parish council to make representations. Greg Franco agreed to send the links to residents via WhatsApp and email.

6.3 Membership of Cambridgeshire Acre

Cambridgeshire Acre had approached the council about membership but after discussion, it was decided not to apply for membership.

6.4 Auditor for 2026/27

The Clerk advised that the previous auditor had resigned and she had sought a quote from CAPALC's auditor service which was £45ph. As this rate seemed reasonable, Kat Jones proposed to appoint CAPALC as auditor for 2026/27 and this was seconded by Jo Bennett.

6.5 Equal Opportunities Policy Review

The Clerk advised that she had made no changes to this policy. James Buxton proposed that the policy be accepted and Polly Fenwick seconded the proposal.

6.6 Village event

The Chair proposed holding a village event, possibly on 26 September, but further discussion would be required.

7

Finance

7.1 Payments proposed for authorisation were:

7.1.1	CAPALC chq 525	£	50.00
7.1.2	McGregor Services chq 526	£	276.00
7.1.3	Village Voice chq 527	£	160.00
7.1.4	SCDC chq 528	£	105.00
7.1.5	Edith Osborn	£	11.73
7.1.6	SLCC	£	84.00

The Payments above were proposed for approval by Greg Franco and seconded by James Buxton.

7.2 Receipts, payments and reconciliation as at 31 July 2026.

The receipts, payments and reconciliation as at 31 July 2026 were proposed for acceptance by Greg Franco and seconded by James Buxton.

8

Planning.

8.1 – WG - Erection of 1 No. Rural worker's dwelling

It was noted that the conditions requested by the planning department had been completed.

8.2 Kingsway Solar Farm

As discussed above.

8.3 Forest City

As discussed above.

CARLTON cum WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

9 Environment

9.1 Children's Playpark

It was noted that there was some land at the top of the bridleway but siting a park there might obstruct tractor/combine harvester access to the fields. It was decided to hold over this topic.

Kat Jones left the meeting.

9.2 Footpaths

The footpath outside Almancil had been rectified.

No quote had been forthcoming to repair the Millenium Footpath. It was decided to ask Chris Abbott for a quotation.

9.3 Road surfaces/gulleys

With so many straw lorries travelling through the village, there is a lot of debris filling up the gulleys. The local farmers are to be advised.

9.4 Climate Change issues

Consideration was given to creating a fire prevention plan due to the lack of rain.

Polly Fenwick advised that her farm owned a fire engine but it was stored at Six Mile Bottom.

A template for creating an emergency plan for the village had already been circulated.

9.5 BioDiversity

It was noted that Josephine Roberts had carried out an amazing job of planting trees within the village.

The Chair advised that she would ask her husband to cut back the sides of the bridle path in September.

10 General observations or matters for consideration at the next meeting

Items to be discussed at the next meeting:

- Emergency Plan
- Communication with residents to be via the website.
Notifications are to be sent out via the 'Chair' email address.
The Chair will email the current list of residents and request them to look at the website rather than via WhatsApp and email.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 10 November 2026 at 8pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm.