

CARLTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of
Carlton-on-Trent Parish Council held in
The Village Hall, Main Street, Carlton on Trent on

Tuesday 1st September 2015 at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr T Cooper (Chair), Cllr N Fletcher (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Clark, Cllr M Eley, Cllr F Jerome, Cllr M Martin, Cllr R Whate, DCllr S Michael and T Grimes (Clerk) plus 3 members of the public

1) To consider any apologies for absence

None

2) To receive any declarations of interest in items on the agenda

MM declared an interest in the clerk's wages.

3) To accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Tuesday 28th July 2015

The minutes were approved and signed by the chair as a true record of the meeting.

4) 10 minute open forum to receive questions and comments from members of the public

The following points were raised:

- A member of the public informed the council that there were trees on the Southbound A1 slip road which were beginning to obstruct vision for motorists leaving Main Street. It was felt this was an issue for Highways and should be raised with Mike Keeling.
- The owners of the trees overhanging Carlton Lane, identified as an issue by Mike Keeling and reported to the council at the 7th July meeting, informed the meeting that they had been cut back but not because anyone from Highways or the parish council approached the owners; a horse rider had told the owners they needed cutting back. The owners asked that they be approached if there is a problem in the future.
- A member of the public felt that there was some confusion over the planning response resulting from the last meeting when the council voted to support an application but then submitted negative comments. TC apologised for any confusion that may have arisen but noted that the minutes corresponded to the response and they had been approved.

a) Brick edging to the road outside Carlton Lodge (FJ)

FJ was approached regarding the pavement which does not have curb stones but has bricks instead; these are sinking, creating a trip hazard and water pooling. SM offered to raise the issue with Cllr BL.

b) Cyclists leaving stickers on the village signs (FJ)

FJ tried to find out about local cycle groups to ask them not to put stickers on the village sign. None were prepared to accept responsibility so it was felt the only way to reduce the problem was to ask race marshals to remove them when events are in progress.

c) Uneven railway crossing (MM)

MM reported that the railway crossing was very uneven. It had been reported to

Network Rail who said it was 'within acceptable tolerances'; however, 'Ramp' signs are now in place on the approach seemingly acknowledging there is a problem. It was agreed that a letter should go to Network Rail asking whether anything can be done to reduce the uneven surface.

d) Removal of tree at 4 Old Great North road (JC)

JC reported that there had been concerns raised about the removal of a tree without permission in the conservation area. Following enquiries, NSDC attended part way through the removal and later issued a response to say that the tree was rotten and permission would have been granted. The owners said Newark & Sherwood Homes gave permission. N&SH issued a response stating that a condition was attached to the permission stating that work should not begin before 1st September, so action would be taken due to the breach of condition.

5) To note any matters arising from the minutes of 7th July 2015

a) Website update (TG)

The clerk reported that Hugo Fox had generated the draft website. The clerk and FJ had reviewed the site and suggested some extra pages and a number of changes which once included would be circulated to all councillors for approval prior to the site being launched.

6) To receive updates on any District & County Councillor matters

Cllr SM updated the council on the following matters:

- Cllr SM has been in touch with Emma Stewart regarding the A1 noise and they are awaiting the outcome of the national prioritisation survey later this year.
- Cllr SM has been in touch with Louise Clerk who is responsible for the PCSO's in the area. LC pointed out that when PCSO's are given more power they are then directed to other places like the city and therefore LC felt it more appropriate to keep PCSOs in the area albeit with restricted powers.
- The next Safer Neighbourhoods meeting will be on 8th October. TC informed Cllr SM that there had been a car chase through the village in the early hours of the morning of 26th August resulting in damage to hedges at two properties and the weight limit sign. It was noted that this would have been an ideal opportunity to move the sign but it had been replaced within 3 working days despite 3 years of requesting it be moved.

7) To receive feedback from councillors on any meetings/training attended

None.

TC reported that there will be a meeting at Cromwell on Thursday 10th September regarding the issues with HGVs and FJ suggested that someone from the council could attend Robert Jenrick's surgery in Sutton on 2nd September to reiterate the ongoing issues in the area.

8) To consider whether any policies need to be reviewed

NF reminded councillors that policies need to be reviewed regularly and it was agreed that these would be added to the agenda from the next meeting, starting with the Standing Orders.

9) To consider the positioning of a new litter bin at the South end of the village

Mike Keeling met JC to identify suitable positions. JC approached residents at the south end of the village for their opinion and reported that numbers 6 and 8 were prepared to have the bin outside their property.

TC suspended standing orders to take the views of residents, The following objections were raised:

- it would be unsightly,

- it may attract more rubbish to an area with no problems at present,
- it would give more people a reason to peer into the adjacent properties
- it would create an inconvenience when gardening
- if the district council cut this service as part of their cost cutting measures in the future, the parish council may not be able to afford to get it emptied

The meeting was reconvened and councillors discussed the fact that the issue arose due to rubbish in the lay by not in the village. It was felt that placing it outside number 6 was nearest the lay by but should only be considered if the owners approved so JC was asked to check as the residents did not own the property.

10) To consider Mike Keeling's response regarding the bench which was by the bus stop

Mike Keeling met FJ on site to discuss the options and reported that there had not been any permission sought to install the bench originally and it did not meet Highways regulations because it was less than 1.2m from the curb. MK said that he would not stop the replacement of the bench but confirmed that it would have to be done by a Highways approved contractor. FJ had obtained quotes for this and it will cost at least £350 just for the installation. Jo Kerr has offered to repair the bench free of charge but warned that any replacement of the same style was likely to rot away again. An alternative style without any commemorative script would be £500 or more. TC has spoken to the family concerned and they were happy for the parish council to take whatever action was necessary, but they did not offer to cover the cost of reinstating the bench.

RESOLVED: Not to replace the bench, but to consider doing so in the future if funds are received from the solar farm.

(proposed by FJ, seconded by MM, carried unanimously)

11) To discuss the routing and timetabling of buses serving the village

It was noted that Marshall's buses do not all run through the village. The number 37, particularly the later services returning from Newark, run up the A1 instead, leaving the village with no service on dark cold nights.

RESOLVED: To write to Marshall's asking whether these services could be directed through the village.

(proposed by TC, seconded by FJ, carried unanimously)

12) To set a date for the Autumn litter pick

17th October was identified as a suitable date for the next litter pick. RW offered to obtain the equipment and to provide the collection point for the rubbish. FJ will notify the village via the next newsletter.

13) To consider any planning matters

a) Notifications received

15/01212/FUL Window at Orchard House is listed on the Planning Committee meeting for 8th September

b) Planning applications to discuss

None

c) Any other planning business

Making planning responses (TG)

Following an enquiry from the public, the clerk investigated the procedure of making planning responses. Parish Councils have the power to be consulted on planning applications and are entitled to respond in favour or against with or without comments. The district council will note any valid planning considerations but the council can submit other concerns which they feel are relevant. Councils can include comments

both in support of, and against, an application within one response.
It was agreed that in order to be clear about planning responses, following any discussion and vote, the comments should be summarised to ensure councillors are happy that they are included and that the public know what comments will be submitted.

14) To discuss and note any further actions required from correspondence received since the last meeting

a) N&S Citizen's Advice Bureau grant request

The clerk read out a request for funding – it was felt that the council did not have sufficient funds to donate.

b) Notts ALC AGM

The clerk asked whether anyone would like to attend the meeting. NF and FJ both expressed an interest and it was agreed that they would vote on behalf of the council.

c) Annual Parish Conference

NF and FJ had expressed an interest in attending but may now be unavailable.

d) Community First Aid Courses

The clerk reported that this had been passed to the Village Hall Committee who had offered the use of the hall and consequently there would be classes running in the near future.

15) To discuss and respond to the following consultations

a) N&S DC Statement of Gambling Policy

Discussions concluded that there weren't any aspects that would affect the village.

RESOLVED: Not to respond

(proposed by FJ, seconded by TC, carried unanimously)

16) To consider and approve any financial matters

a) To approve payments for:

- **Clerk's Wages & expenses £312.39 and £28.46 respectively**
- **Varnish and stain for benches: Not required**

RESOLVED: To make these payments

(proposed by TC, seconded by JC, carried unanimously, MM did not vote)

The cheque and stub were signed.

b) Any other financial matters

i) To note the bank reconciliation

The bank statements and reconciliation were signed by NF.

ii) Budget update

The clerk circulated an interim budget report and pointed out that there was an overspend in 3 areas: insurance, audit and bin provision, but that these were minimal and that Cllr BL had already paid for the bin post. The clerk also made the cash book and invoices available for inspection. The council were satisfied that spending was on budget.

iii) Update on the internal audit report

The clerk reported that all requirements had been actioned with the bank statement now being in the clerk's name and the insurance company informed of the change in asset valuation.

iv) To receive the external audit report

The clerk informed the council that the External Audit had been returned and the notice was displayed inviting the public to view the Statement of Accounts and Auditor's Certificate/Report. An audit response was read out stating that the

Internal Audit form should be completed before the Annual Governance Statements are signed but that the council had satisfied the auditors that there had been sufficient internal audit of records and control systems.

v) To determine the village hall hire fee

This was agreed as £6, being a two hour meeting. The running total to date is now £21.

17) To raise any other business which may need to be included on the agenda of the next meeting

TC reported that lorries turning into the lay by were cutting across the grass verge and getting very close to the bridge. Being a drainage dyke, any damage to the bridge would block the dyke and cause a flood risk. MM pointed out that the lorry wheels were also damaging the road surface.

RW raised concerns about the increasing number of road closures on the A1 due to accidents and the potential consequences if emergency vehicles were required. Cllr SM said that this was being discussed with Highways.

RW also noted that the hedge on the land between the A1 and the road to Cromwell was overhanging and it should be reported to Mike Keeling.

ME noted that the Winter Salt requirement needed to be assessed in case approval was required for an order.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm