

Carlton-on-Trent Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday 24th March 2005. At the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

. Present: Mrs C Fitzpatrick (Vice-Chairman), Lt Col G.E Vere-Laurie, Mrs A O'Brien, Mr J Fairhurst, Mr E Holland, Mr C Hemstock, Mrs C Rose (District Councillor), Mr B Laughton (present to give apologies- see note below), Mrs S Beresford (Clerk), Mr B Knowles (Wayfinder Officer- Nottinghamshire County Council) and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: Mr R Boothroyd

2. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda.

There was no declaration of interest registered, however Lt Col. G.E Vere-Laurie wished to state that he was not able to declare interest when an in-depth description of the agenda items was absent. The Clerk to note this for the future agendas.

3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday 18th March 2005.

The minutes, having been circulated were agreed to contain a true record.
Proposed by Mr C Hemstock and seconded by Mrs A O'Brien.

Prior to item 4 on the agenda Mr B Laughton sought permission from the Vice-Chairman to give this address.

Mr Laughton informed the Parish Council that, as an election has been called he is unable to give direct support to Parish Councils until after the election. This is in line with constitutional policy. Mr Laughton wished to thank all present for support to him over the last four years and if elected will see the Parish Council again at the next meeting. Mrs C Fitzpatrick thanked Mr Laughton for all his work and constant support to the Parish Council. Mr Laughton then left the meeting.

4. Presentation by Mr Bob Knowles- Wayfinder Officer- Nottinghamshire County Council and Co-ordinator of the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Scheme.

Mr Knowles stated that the P3 scheme has been running since 1996 and gives Parish Councils autonomy to manage the paths within their parish. As Carlton-on-Trent has expressed an interest in joining the scheme, the Parish Council has been placed on a waiting list. There are essentially two parts to the scheme, Parish Paths Partnership and Farm Partnership. The Farm Partnership pays farmers and landowners to maintain and cut the headland paths that run over their land. This involves providing them with a small fee to cut the paths, repair stiles, gates, bridges etc.

The Parish Paths partnership involves the Parish Council signing into the Partnership, appointing a Path Warden who will survey the paths each year to highlight issues and problems, for example difficult access, broken stiles, gates, poor provision of signing and footpaths signs etc and to draw up a work schedule. The Warden will liaise with the Co-ordinator to discuss which paths need maintenance, cutting etc and will allow the Parish more autonomy to determine when and how this work is to be done and how regularly. After the surveys are complete and a work schedule is drawn up the Parish Council are provided with fixed fees that the County Council will pay for replacement, repairs and maintenance of the paths. These fees are provided to the Parish Council “up front” and the Parish Council can contract a local handy person to carry out repairs etc. The Parish Council are also given an administration fee of approx £30.00 when joining the scheme. All materials are provided and stored locally. If the Parish Council chooses not to commission their own workperson, the County Council can supply a contractor who is willing to do the work at the County Council rates. Both Mr Knowles and his colleague Charlotte Jolly can offer support and guidance throughout the process and setting up of the scheme. The scheme runs year in, year out and an annual inspection of the paths usually provides the information to produce annual work schedules.

There are however, some anomaly with the footpaths within Carlton-on-Trent as the A1 appears to slice through some of the listed paths. Mr Knowles at this point provided working maps to show these clearly marked. Some of the footpaths should have been closed and will eventually be distinguished. An order to close some of these footpaths was drawn up but as yet has not received a “rubber stamp”. Mr Knowles will recommend to the mapping officers that these orders are resurrected and the paths formally taken off the map.

Mr Knowles also described the other parts to the scheme, which involve funding the production of an A3 sheet, which can be laminated- on one side a Parish Map of the Footpaths and on the other side, a précis of the village from a historical point of view describing local history and places of interest. Mr Knowles informed the meeting that usually a local History group is keen to provide the information for such a leaflet. The P3 Scheme also provides part funding (up to 50%) towards a notice board and installation to display the maps and leaflets describing local paces of interest.

Mr Knowles provided handouts and leaflets describing the scheme and invited questions.

Mr G E Vere-Laurie wished to know, as the landowner of the majority of the land and paths in Carlton-on-Trent why he was not aware of the Farm Partnership scheme. Mr Knowles replied that the Scheme had been well publicised at local Agricultural Shows and through the National Farmers Union. Lt Col. G.E Vere-Laurie felt that was an unsatisfactory response and asked why the County Council had not utilised the DEFRA Database which provided holding numbers and land registry of all landowners and farmers in the Country.

Mr Fitzpatrick asked when the Parish Council could join the scheme. Mr Knowles replied that the scheme is currently fully subscribed and Carlton-on-Trent is third on the waiting list, which will involve waiting until some Parish Councils drop out of the agreement.

Mrs Fitzpatrick clarified that the Paths due for extinguishment will not require walking. Mr J Fairhurst expressed an interest in taking on the role of Path Warden and this was supported by all present.

Mr Knowles clarified that the Farm Partnership scheme did not have a waiting list. Lt Col G.E Vere-Laurie asked for more information- this to be provided by Mr Knowles outside this meeting. The Clerk to email Mr Knowles with the relevant contact details.

Mrs Fitzpatrick formally thanked Mr Knowles for a most interesting presentation, which provoked lively discussion and debate.

5. Any other Business

- a) One member of the public asked if the District Council provided a grant for street cleaning to be carried out by local residents. A similar scheme existed in Bassetlaw. Mrs C Rose stated that Newark and Sherwood District Council do not provide such grant.
- b) The issue of road sweeping concluded that the District Council operate a system governed by a rule of standards. If the road is deemed to be below a certain standard an order is made to send in the road sweepers. Mrs O'Brien stated that the road sweepers operating a "single sweep" through the village, which did not ensure complete cleaning which caused a problem. The issue of litter, especially up towards the A1 transport café area was discussed and the churned up verges caused by contactors and the increased traffic through the village was raised. The Clerk to write to the District Council to ask for a regular (possibly weekly) clean in this area and will also write to AMScott regarding reinstatement of the grass verges. Mrs C Rose to also write to the District Council Environment Department regarding the dumping/ fly-tipping issue in the lay by and transport café region.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.20hours.