

CARLTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Carlton-on-Trent Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th May 2013 at 7.25pm in the Village Hall.

Present: R Whate (Chair), T Cooper (Vice-Chair), J Clark, K Smith, N Fletcher, F Jerome, M Eley, C Rose, B Laughton, T Grimes (Temporary Clerk) and 3 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

There weren't any absences.

2. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None

3. To approve the minutes

(a) the extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 2nd April 2013

(b) the meeting held on 19th March 2013

Both sets of minutes were accepted as a true record of the relevant meetings with slight amendments to wording.

4. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman including declaration of acceptance of offer

Chair: Terry Cooper was proposed by Robbie Whate and seconded by Fiona Jerome. A unanimous vote followed. Terry accepted the position and thanked Robbie for her work as chair.

Vice-chair: Nigel Fletcher was proposed by Kevin Smith and seconded by Robbie Whate. A unanimous vote followed. Nigel accepted the position.

5. 10 minute open forum for members of the public

Following recent discussions on footpaths, a member of the public expressed a feeling that the footpath from the South end of the village to the lay-bye was not used by many people and should therefore be lowest in the priority list for any work to be carried out.

In response another member of the public pointed out the fact that the footpath from the Northern Inn over the A1 to the village was used by many but was rapidly disappearing under a carpet of nettles.

6. Matters Arising

From the extra-ordinary meeting held 2nd April 2013

a) Clerk update

The Clerk's contract ended on 29th April and no appeal was made. The Council now owe sick pay and notice pay. The exact amount is unknown as NSDC are seeking legal advice over the contract of employment. Worst case scenario the amount will be 1 month's notice on full pay, one month's sick pay on full pay and two month's sick pay on half pay. There was some discussion as to whether this should be held by the Council until requested by the clerk but the feeling was to wrap up the matter by paying as soon as a final figure is known.

The advertisement for a new Clerk is in the phone box, on the Village Hall notice board and on the NALC website with a closing date of May 13th.

b) Litter bins as dog bins

Two types of label are available for ordinary bins to show that they can be used as dog bins: a vinyl sign at a cost of 5 for £15+VAT or a rigid sign at a cost of £15+VAT for one. As there are several litter bins in the village Robbie proposed buying vinyl signs and Fiona seconded this.

There has been an improvement in the village with less dog fouling in evidence which is probably due to the combination of posters getting the message across and light nights making potential offenders more visible.

c) Litter pick

The best time to do this has probably passed but it was felt that it was still worth organising so the date of June 22nd was set to coincide with the village hall coffee morning and to clean the village before the fete on June 29th. This will be advertised in the next newsletter and Robbie will store the rubbish sacks until NSDC collect them. There was discussion as to whether the PC should invest in some litter picking equipment but the decision was to continue borrowing from NSDC, which Robbie will organise.

d) Sale of cars on Castle Hill

It was noted that there had not been any since the last meeting so it was agreed that the situation would be monitored to get a fuller picture of the situation, after which Trading Standards could be contacted if necessary.

From the Parish Council meeting held 19th March 2013

a) Branch in the Beck near Spittle Bridge

This was cleared by Terry and Kevin who were thanked.

b) Trent View Garages

As yet there is no sign of a retrospective planning application online for the garages on this property in Ferry Lane. The PC asked the Clerk to enquire as to whether this had been requested and whether the Council would be informed of the response.

c) Cromwell Halt rubbish and parking

d) Footpath from the council houses to the lay-bye

e) Pavements near the cross roads

These matters were all brought up during the public forum of this meeting (see 5 above) and discussed in the annual village meeting as follows:

“A member of the public asked whether the lay-bye would be improved. B Laughton reported that the long term plans were for a lorry park in Newark with a card scheme so there was no cash incentive to go elsewhere. Drivers are given a card which entitles them to use the lorry park facilities. As there is no cash given to the driver to pay for lorry park facilities, there is no incentive for the driver to find an alternative parking area like Carlton lay-bye or Cromwell Halt which is free allowing them to keep the cash. So far there has been about a 25% take up on the card scheme. B Laughton offered to organise a meeting at Cromwell Halt with the Highways representative and to invite Cromwell PC to send a representative.

At this point J Clark arrived and said that Mike Kealing would be visiting at 10am on Weds 15th May so B Laughton agreed to attend.

It was noted that the lay-bye seemed tidier and Doris was thanked for reporting the repeated problems of rubbish left there.” (taken from the minutes of the Annual Village Meeting)

f) Wrights bus passing through the village

This is still travelling through the village at speed. Councillors decided to see whether it continued.

g) Register of Electors

This was requested and received and is now in the Councillors' pack.

h) A1 sound readings

The matter is still with Patrick Mercer awaiting someone else's comment but Christine Rose is on the case and will report back when there is news. Jean has had a response to her letter regarding damage to properties as a result of the A1 slip road surface. Jo Horton acknowledged receipt of the complaints and outlined the procedure for responding. A letter should be received by 9th May.

i) Pears Factory planning application

Approximately 200 people turned out to object, four of whom spoke at the planning committee meeting and despite the recommendation to approve the development, it was refused by a unanimous vote.

There is some building work taking place at the site but this is a different development for which they have planning permission. The Action Group are continuing to complain and asking the public to do so whenever they see lorry spillages and they are expecting Pears to appeal the decision.

7. Planning

(a) Decisions made

None

(b) Planning applications to discuss

None

(c) Any other planning business

None

8. Correspondence

(a) Local Improvement Scheme

The letter officially notifying the PC that they have been successful in their application for the village sign has arrived. Jenny (the sign designer) would like the design copyright to be the property of the PC. It could be registered but this would be costly and it is implied anyway.

There was some discussion as to whether the public should be able to view the design before the sign is created. The suggestion was to invite Jenny to display the design at the next meeting and to inform the public via the newsletter.

(b) Department for Communities and Local Government Survey

This survey was emailed to the Councillors due to deadline for responses being 10th May. Fiona has responded but reported that other Councillors could also complete the survey.

(c) Employment Law Update

NALC sent out a summary of forthcoming changes in Employment law. The information was put into the Councillors' pack.

(d) Dog Bin Liners

Harby PC clerk emailed to say that NSDC had stopped using bin liners in dog bins and they wanted PCs to lobby for original service to be resumed. It was felt this would affect CoT and anything that may put dog owners off using bins was a bad thing. The clerk was asked to register the PCs dismay at this news in view of increased charges for the service.

(e) Superfast Broadband

A letter was received asking whether any councillors would be interested in an update meeting. Fiona expressed an interest in attending and Terry asked that information be obtained for those who cannot attend.

Before leaving Bruce informed the Councillors that the bids were all in and a decision was imminent, but that this had been initiated by a conservative council and the new labour council may decide to stop proceedings.

(f) Valerie Gillespie Cup

This is awarded for community projects so is not applicable to CoT.

9. Health and Safety Inspection

This is now due and Kevin volunteered to carry out a survey of the PCs assets.

10. Financial matters

(a) Payments

- Village Hall fees £6
- E-on kiosk electricity £15.17
- Clerks Severance Pay £150 maximum
- Temporary clerks wages 41 hours plus £8.59
- Dog bin signs £15+VAT

Jean proposed all payments and Fiona seconded them.

It was proposed that the temporary clerk be paid at the rate of £10.19 per hour the same as the previous clerk for the cover provided. Jean proposed this and Fiona seconded it making the total payment £426.38.

(b) Summary of Accounts held by Carlton on Trent Parish Council – preparation for audit

The accounts were put before the councillors.

(c) Internal audit – to agree auditor and date of audit (annual return due by 18th June)

The previous accounts have been submitted to Zoe Walton for internal audit so it was felt she should be approached again despite having had a baby. If she is unable to do them the Village Hall auditor should be approached.

(d) Any other outstanding financial matters

None

11. AOB

The floods have washed the steps away where access to the Holmes is gained. There is a sign up saying repair is due in February but nothing has happened. Kevin offered to contact the company named on the sign.

Kevin will also continue to attend the Safer Neighbourhood meetings and pass on relevant information.

NSDC have sent an email asking whether the PC want to continue to use the Insurance scheme with Zurich. The deadline for decision falls long before the next meeting so the councillors agreed they would remain with Zurich.

12. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be July 16th.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Tanya Grimes – Temporary Clerk to the PC