Minutes of the Meeting of

Carlton-on-Trent Parish Council held on

Tuesday 5th September 2023 at 7.30pm

in Carlton on Trent Village Hall

Present:

Cllr L Hopkins (Chair), Cllr M Martin (Vice-Chair), Cllr M Eley, Cllr G Hendrickson, Cllr M Hopkins, Cllr F Mear, Cllr J Mear and T Grimes (Clerk).

1. To consider any apologies for absence

LH gave apologies for being late. BL and SM both gave apologies.

1. To receive any declarations of interest in items on the agenda

MM declared an interest in the clerk’s wages, laptop and software payments.

1. To accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Tuesday 4th July 2023

The minutes were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the chair.

1. 10-minute open forum to receive questions and comments from members of the public

ME has been asked whether the vegetation can be cut from the Northbound carriageway 30mph sign at the South end of the village.

1. To note the following matters arising from previous minutes
	1. Ferry Lane Signs

After arriving during item 7, LH took the chair and returned to this item to report that Highways had confirmed the sign was nothing to do with them. They accepted it’s not a domestic sign, but confirmed they wouldn’t be removing it because they don’t own the land or the sign. If the parish council wanted it removed they would need the landowner’s permission.

* 1. Bank Signatories

The clerk informed the meeting that GH had successfully approved July payments but MH had not been able to. The clerk had contacted the bank who said MH is listed as a signatory so just needs to ring to resolve login issues.

* 1. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) activity

The clerk informed the meeting that Newark & Sherwood ASB team and the police had not received any reports of ASB over the Summer. The clerk hadn’t been made aware of any matters either. Councillors had personally observed small numbers of young people at the Beck but they weren’t abusive or leaving rubbish. It was also noted that there had been numerous observations of walkers using the bench to each lunch or to rest, confirming that keeping it had been the right decision.

1. To receive updates on any District and County Councillor matters

Neither were present to report.

1. To consider ways to spend the remaining CIL money

The clerk informed the council that she had contacted Sutton PC and there wasn’t any kiosk paint available but they provided details of a supplier in Newark and said they knew a person who may be prepared to paint it. The paint was £45 per tin (one should do unless undercoat was needed) however, no-one had been in touch re painting since Sutton clerk’s email in July. MM reported that he had listed the work on My Builder but the only responses were from Doncaster and Leicester meaning travel time would become a consideration and increase the cost. GH offered to do the painting if helped. MM agreed to help.

The clerk also reported she had contacted Highways regarding a litterbin at the south end of the village. They directed her to Newark & Sherwood, who said the bin could be fitted on the verge by the Pumping Station for free. They also said they can get discounts on Broxap bins if these are of interest.

MM also suggested planters for under the entry signs which never get mowed. There was some concern that plants needed watering and the containers would need maintenance, but it was suggested bulbs would look after themselves and composite planters wouldn’t need maintenance. The clerk offered to look into prices.

**Proposed**: To select a Broxap bin similar to existing bins and have it installed by NSDC.

(proposed ME, seconded MM, carried unanimously)

LH arrived and took the chair.

1. To consider joining the Lengthsman Scheme

MM noted that the scheme does not allow workers to work adjacent to a road with a speed limit over 40mph so they would not be able to do the path from the cross roads to the railway. It was also noted that the council has to provide a vehicle and equipment so it would be better to contract someone than to employ them. It was therefore felt that there wasn’t sufficient work for a lengthsman to do.

ME noted that the pavement still needed repair and LH had been informed of a blind resident falling from the pavement where the surface is uneven. MM had observed a mobility scooter travelling on the road adjacent to the pavement due to the pavement being overgrown.

The clerk was asked to contact Highways and thank them for strimming the footpath. The Highways Act states footpaths must be kept clear so it was decided Highways should be told of the incidents above and asked to clear the footpath at ground level back to its tarmac surface across the full width and to cut overhanging vegetation right back. There should also be a request to repair the pavement surface near the crossroads.

1. To consider website provision due to Hugofox imposing charges from October

The clerk reported that Hugofox would be charging £9.99+VAT minimum (to include the planning tracker it would be £19.99+VAT) per month from 4th October. The council has 3 options:

* Find another free provider – e-voice offer ad free sites similar to Hugofox.
* Find out whether an alternative host would be cheaper for the same provision and build a site with them – there are lots available for around £20 per month many have more functionality than Hugofox but more functionality isn’t really needed. There are a few cheaper than £20 per month but they limit the number of pages and amount of storage so may not be appropriate.
* Find a designer and host package – there are several that specialise in council websites, site building costs are between £500 and £1000 up front and then £100 to £350 per year in maintenance/hosting costs. Some will include a Gov.UK domain name which is £95 up front registration and then £55 per year if done separately.
* Stay with Hugofox and decide whether the planning tracker is necessary.

The time required to transfer the site is unknown but it shouldn’t take more than 40 hours if Hugofox build time is anything to go by, so self-build would probably be cheaper, however it may not be possible for the equivalent of £120 that it would cost to remain with Hugofox.

It was felt that it would be worth exploring e-voice and if it’s not appropriate stay with Hugofox at £10 per month, the final decision being made at the next meeting.

1. To receive feedback on any meeting attended by councillors
	1. Safer Neighbourhoods Group

MH reported that there wasn’t much of direct relevance. There was a lot of talk of speeding, a death on Cromwell Lane, vandalism in Norwell pavilion, neighbour disputes involving gluing locks and farm break ins with theft of equipment. MH gave an update on the ASB by the river having declined and the police officer reiterated the message of reporting any issues.

1. To consider responding to the following consultations
	1. Notts CC – Waste Local Plan

Without CCllr BL to explain the plan it was felt that comment could not be passed.

1. To consider responding to or acting upon the following correspondence
	1. Npower – change of rate for electricity

The clerk noted that the unit charge was increasing but it was not clear how this would impact unmetered supplies. The clerk was asked to contact Npower and request that the supply be disconnected.

* 1. Unity Trust – change of paying in cash

The clerk reported that cash could now be paid in at Post Office counters.

* 1. Unity Trust – Financial Services Compensation Scheme

The clerk reported that she had confirmed the parish council was below the threshold and would therefore be protected under the scheme.

1. To consider the following financial matters
	1. To note the bank reconciliation

This was checked and signed by the chair.

* 1. To note the following payments already made:
		1. Clerk’s laptop - £299.99
		2. Software licence - £38.01
		3. Donation for ice creams for the Coronation - £95.62
		4. Bank charges £18.00

The clerk reported that the payments had been approved in principal during previous meetings but amounts were now being confirmed.

* 1. To approve the following payments
		1. Clerks wages and HMRC – usual amounts

RESOLVED: To make these payments.

(proposed LH, seconded MH, carried unanimously, MM did not vote)

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

The clerk tabled a copy of Clerks & Councils Direct

The clerk noted that a planning application had been received after the agenda was published, with a deadline of 22nd September. A request for an extension has been submitted but the clerk asked if an extraordinary meeting were needed if no extension was granted. Councillors felt this wouldn’t be necessary and no response would be submitted if this were the case.

1. To note the date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be 3rd October 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 20:28