

Report from Chairman of East Carlton Parish Council

Councilors

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 3/5/22, John Underwood, the current Chairman, decided not to stand again as chair, but to continue as a Councilor. Nick Janzen, the vice chair at the time decided to step down fully from the Council. Their many years of service in these roles was recognised and appreciated.

Gary Chambers was nominated and elected as chairman, with Bob Rutt as vice chair. During the year Bob Rutt also decided to step down as a Councilor on health grounds. In July Bob Tevelyan was co-opted as a new Councilor. There are currently five Councilors with two unfilled posts. Expressions of interest from anyone within the village who would like to be involved would be welcome and should be directed to the Clerk.

Clerk

Justina Medwell continued as the clerk to the Council throughout the year. Her efficiency and experience is invaluable. Transparency of all Council matters has improved and can be viewed by all via the East Carlton Parish Council website. Policies and procedures have also been updated along with stricter budgetary controls.

Budget and Precept

A budget for 2023/24 was set in November 2022. Due to increased costs of running the Council, an increase to the precept of 9.6% was approved to ensure that the council could continue to function and provide financial support to other services/organisations as it had done previously. However Council Tax bills from NNC showed an increase in the precept of 7.6%

Planning Issues

There were no major planning applications received during the year, which reflects the planning status of East Carlton as a restraint village. The appeals regarding the two Gypsy and Traveller site applications on the Ashley Rd remain uncertain.

Glebe Land

The sale by the Peterborough Diocese of the glebe land on the edge of the village on Wire Lane was monitored by the Council and assurances were sought from the agents on the checks that would be carried out on potential purchases prior to completion.

Annual Achievements

Along with other Parish Councils along the Welland valley, ECPC contributed to the cost of the bus service that continued to run between these villages.

However the future of this service remains uncertain due to lack of use and future funding cuts.

The Council obtained a grant to plant trees to commemorate the platinum jubilee of the late Queen. 12 Lime trees were planted by volunteers in the avenue in East Carlton Park, from the wall to the west gate. Other potential planting within the Park to use the remainder of the grant is being discussed with NNC.

The Council continued to liaise with the Police through out the year on criminal and antisocial behavior issues within the Parish. Fly tipping was reported to NNC as and when it was discovered, with 25 separate incidents reported and cleared, in and around East Carlton, within the first four months of 2023 alone. Rubbish is picked by volunteers to keep the village as tidy as possible.

The defibrillator is maintained on the outside of the cricket Club by the Council and training on how this should be used was provided during the course of the year.

Gary Chambers

Chairman