

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 1st July 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Chris Benson, Steve Bentley, Martin Coombs, Stephen Evans and Stephen Wilman, District Councillor Kevin Lancaster, six members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Nick Cotton and District Councillor Suzie Pye.

As this was the first meeting of the new Council, all Parish Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking their seats.

District Councillor Kevin Lancaster took the Chair for the first item on the agenda. He also spoke and advised the new Council on matters of procedure and respect within the Council and the community.

18/61 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Chris Benson was elected Chairman for 2019-20. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

18/62 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Stephen Wilman was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2019-20.

18/63 Co-option of new Councillor:

There had only been one firm expression of interest and Steve Bentley was co-opted as a Parish Councillor. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Chairman welcomed him to the Council.

18/64 Public participation:

The following issues were raised:

- a. A plaque on the Village Green has been screwed to a tree and it is wondered if this is appropriate. The Chairman will have a look at it.
- b. A yellow post has appeared in the verge at High Casterton and there is no record of this in the minutes. The Clerk said this matter is in hand and awaits a response from Peter Hosking at CCC Highways.
- c. Concern was expressed regarding the 'significant' variations in the Council's end of year financial statements. The Clerk explained that while there had been a significant increase in spending, there had been a corresponding increase in income, due largely to grants received for specific improvements in the village. He offered to provide the enquirer with further details if required.

18/65 Requests for Dispensations: None.

18/66 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

18/67 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

18/68 Correspondence:

- a. SLDC, regarding bin emptying. The bin at the bus stop was emptied six times during the last period and the bin at the Pheasant Inn was emptied four times. As with last year, these will be rolled up for the year.
- b. It was resolved that the Clerk be empowered to comment on minor planning applications on behalf of the Council, where the date for comments falls between meetings.

18/69 Reports:

There were no specific reports from the Police, County Councillor, or District Councillors, but Councillor Lancaster made helpful comment and responded to questions.

18/70 Finance:

- a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

HMRC	£236.20	PAYE
Duncan Hamlett	£30.00	Internal Audit – honorarium (to note).
K M Price	£161.96	Quarterly expenses to 30th June, including use of home office and travel

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. The report from the Internal Auditor on the Council's Accounts for 2018-19 was received. There were no issues raised to bring to the Council's attention..
- d. It was resolved to revise the Bank Mandate and to add Chris Benson, Steve Bentley and Stephen Wilman as signatories to the account, any two sign.

18/71 Parish Council website:

The webmaster at Ireby with Leck Parish Council had been approached for help (minute 18/58 refers), but he felt he could take on any additional work. The Clerk had therefore authorised the continued running of the website for the time being by Ken Humphris, who had agreed to do this for a token payment.

A resident of the parish had expressed an interest in taking the site over but it was not known whether this would be as a village site or just a Council one, nor the payment that would be expected. It was therefore resolved that this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

18/72 Planning:

- a. The following applications were considered:

S/05/24 Land near A683 Devil's Bridge. Conversion and extension of existing barn to form one two-bedroom dwelling and erection of one four-bedroom dwelling with associated residential curtilage, parking and access and installation of package treatment plant. The Council has no objections but would favour the other application for this site (S/05/24A).

S/05/24A Land near A683 Devil's Bridge. Conversion and extension of existing barn to form one eco passivhaus low carbon dwelling. Approval recommended.

S/05/32 The Grange, Casterton. Creation of access track to Casterton Barn (retrospective). Approval recommended, but the Council regrets this is a Retrospective Application.

- b. The following decision, notified to the Council by the Planning Authority, were noted:

S/05/28/LB Whelprigg Lodge, Casterton. Listed building consent for works to roof. Granted,

18/73 Casterton Community Trust:

The Trust is asking for details of who is going to represent the Parish Council on the Trust, in advance of their AGM on 19th September. There is some uncertainty as to whether Councillor Benson, having been elected as a Trustee still holds this position or not and the Clerk will make further enquiries.

18/74 Future agenda items:

Maintenance of verges etc around the village (excluding Village Green)
Casterton Newsletter - who will produce it?
Future Parish Council projects - what would Councillors like to see in the village?
Casterton Community Trust - the Council's stance and role in the Charity.
Parish website (see above)
Issues at Gateheads Brow.

Three residents spoke, wishing the new Council well, thanking the County and District Councillors for standing in on a temporary basis to enable the Council to continue until quorate once again, and the Clerk for coping with the transition.

18/75 Date of the next meeting:

Provisionally Monday 9th September 2019 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed:

Dated: