

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held by ZOOM on Tuesday 25th August 2020 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Chris Benson (Chairman), Martin Coombs, Stephen Evans, and Stephen Wilman, two members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

20/27 Requests for Dispensations: None.

20/28 Declarations of Interest:

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

20/29 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2020, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

20/30 Casual Vacancy:

SLDC had received no requests for an Election, so the Council is now able to co-opt to fill the vacancy. The Clerk reported that there had been no expressions of interest yet. The thanks of the Council are recorded to former Councillor Steve Bentley, for his work as a Councillor and the Clerk will convey the good wishes of the Council to him.

20/31 Finance:

- a. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- b. It was resolved to increase the 'home working' allowance paid to the Clerk, in line with the new HMRC advice, (a tax-free amount of £6 weekly - the first increase for many years - from 1st April 2020).
- c. The provisional arrangements made for bin emptying with SLDC were confirmed - these are now in operation.

20/32 Planning:

- a. The following application was considered and approval recommended::

S/05/37A/LB Old Manor, High Casterton. Listed building consent for replacement of septic tank with new sewage treatment plant including soakaway.

- b. The following application arrived and the Council's comments, have been noted by YDNPA:

S/05/39 Laneside, Casterton. Demolition of existing single storey extensions; erection of new single and double storey extensions to provide garage and additional living space together with internal and external alterations to the property.

- c. The following Appeal against the refusal of planning permission, was noted. It was resolved no further comments be made.

APP/C9499/D/20/3253749 Owl Barn, Casterton. Erection of single storey oak framed mansard to replace existing conservatory.

20/33 Maintenance issues:

- a. Laitha Lane - the Clerk had contacted YDNPA and it is on their list for clearing.
- b. Thanks were expressed to whoever had weeded the area around the war memorial. The Chairman apologised that he had not done this.
- c. Knotweed in the parish - the Clerk had contacted Henry Armitage, who had agreed to inspect the area reported.
- d. LAP money held by Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council. KLTC holds £2,472 on behalf of the LAP parishes. It was resolved to ask Councillor Cotton when this money can be used and for what purpose. Originally, this Council had asked that it be used for drain cleaning.
- e. The Clerk had today reported blocked drains at Colliers Lane cross roads, and at the Old Manor (8) to CCC Highways.
- f. Councillor Coombs agreed to look at footpath signage at Laitha Lane, especially the entrance to the lane by the golf course, which would be a safer route to Kirkby Lonsdale.
- g. Tarmac at Wandales Lane/Gateheads junction - a long-standing issue.
- h. Former Councillor Steve Bentley had left a list with the Chairman and Clerk of actions still in hand and details of progress made.
- i. The Chairman will speak to Michael Ratcliffe regarding two culverts on his land.
- j. Survey of roads in the parish. The Chairman said he had only made minimal progress so far.
- k. Blocked drains and other issues were listed at the following locations. The Chairman will check the list, after which it will be sent to Councillor Cotton, with a request that a site meeting is arranged with the Chairman to investigate these problems and submit a report to CCC Highways:
 - i. Flooding on the A683 300 yards north of Devil's Bridge.
 - ii. Flooding from the BT manhole cover on the A683 (report previously).
 - iii. Drains midway between Bindloss road end and Gowrey.
 - iv. Drain at High Casterton, just before Uplands.
 - v. Drain under the Well Lane railway bridge; a sump is needed to collect the gravel from this.

20/34 Public issues:

The Clerk reported on the following matters, as requested by members of the public:

- a. (with reference to minute 20/25d of the last meeting, for clarification):
Casterton Neighbours are the group set up in 2018 by the last Parish Council on the request of SLDC (in 2016) for each parish to provide a 'community resilience plan to provide neighbourly assistance when needed.'
Casterton Neighbours organised and managed all the requests for help from residents during the entire 'lockdown' period along with considerable help from six other volunteers from the village.
Casterton Neighbours with other parish groups were registered with SLDC and CCC as available to help residents through lockdown and provided feedback.
- b. Residents wish to thank Councillor Steve Bentley for all his work and commitment since May 2019 and are sorry he has decided to resign. It was refreshing that someone moving into Casterton was prepared to become offer time and effort as a councillor.
- c. A question had been raised about accessing ZOOM meetings. The Clerk said we are all on a learning curve and we would gradually become used to the system. Tonight's meeting access, however, had been free of problems.
- d. 'Public participation' had not been on the agenda of this meeting or the last one. It was resolved that this will be re-introduced at the next meeting, subject to the 'protocol' the Council has adopted.
- e. Two members of the public had expressed a wish that the Council has a dedicated website.

20/35 Parish Council Website:

- a. It was resolved that the Clerk will draft an Accessibility Statement claiming the new Regulations are a 'disproportionate burden' on a small Council.
Councillors will approve this by email before it will be placed on the website.
- b. It was felt that, in due course, it would be good to have a dedicated Parish Council website and it was agreed to investigate likely costs from several different providers. These will be considered in private session at the next meeting.

20/36 Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 7pm by ZOOM

(The following meeting will be the Precept Meeting in January 2021)

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed:

Dated: