

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held by ZOOM on Tuesday 17th November 2020 at 7pm.

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

20/37 Public participation:

- a. In October 2018, two defibrillators were installed, the property and responsibility of the Parish Council. Two residents have been sharing the weekly recording since then. An agenda item for the next meeting was agreed 'to manage the future inspection and maintenance of this equipment'.
- b. Following hedge cutting in the parish, many of the lanes have been littered with trimmings. These not only blocked drains but often puncture the tyres of both vehicles and cycles. An agenda item for the next meeting was agreed 'to discuss how to improve this situation for both residents and visitors'.

20/38 Requests for Dispensations: None.

20/39 Declarations of Interest:

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

20/40 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th August 2020, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

20/41 Casual Vacancy:

There had been no expressions of interest in the Casual Vacancy. This will now be taken off the agenda but can be reinstated for a future meeting, should anyone come forward.

20/42 Finance:

- a. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- b. The Annual Pay Award for the Clerk was noted, 2.75% backdated to 1st April 2020, as recommended nationally by NALC/SLCC.

20/43 Planning:

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

S/05/39 Bindloss Stables, Wandales Lane, Casterton. Householder planning permission for erection of front extension to extend existing bedroom and provide disabled access to the dwelling.

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

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

20/44 Maintenance issues:

The Chairman said he had been in touch with Councillor Cotton over the ongoing issues but the agreed site meeting had not taken place yet. He said he had only made slow progress with the survey of roads in the parish, as it is a huge task.

The outstanding matters were considered briefly as follows:

- a. Well Lane. Councillor Cotton has passed on the Council's concerns to Joanne Parker at CCC.
- b. Some tarmac macing has been carried out and some of the drains had been cleared out.
- c. The Clerk will look into previous correspondence regarding sheepfolds in the parish and make further enquiries as to the responsibility for their maintenance.
- d. The Clerk will make further reports about potholes, especially on the A683.
- e. Thanks were expressed to Ron Bulman, for clearing the war memorial in time for the Remembrance Sunday service.
- f. The Clerk had contacted Councillor Cotton, with regard to the LAP money being held by Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council and had suggested that it might be used for the benefit of most, if not all, of the former LAP parishes by attending to blocked drains on the A65, A683, A684 and other minor roads in the area. This request has now been submitted to CCC Highways to ask if a special digger can be hired for this - a reply is awaited.
- g. The land involved with drainage issue on Chapel House Lane has recently changed hands and the new owner needs to be contacted.
- h. Work on the BT manhole cover on the A683 has been done and the effect needs to be assessed.
- i. The presence of knotweed in Casterton woods had been reported by a member of public and the landowner has been contacted.
- j. A gully sucker has emptied the pots at the Old Manor and the Golf Course crossroads.
- k. Resurfacing/ pothole filling has been carried out on Whelprigg Road, but work at Wandales Lane is on going with no progress yet.

20/45 Footpath signage on Laitha Lane:

The Chairman agreed to make further enquiries and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

20/46 Casterton 'Twinning':

An interesting letter had been received from Mr David Kelly in Casterton Victoria Australia, who had visited Casterton, Cumbria some years ago and was delighted to see the statement 'Twinned with Casterton Victoria, Australia 1854 Kirby Brothers'. Councillor Evans agreed to respond to the letter on behalf of the Council.

20/47 Community Led Plan:

Mrs Marjorie Murray had sent the Clerk the completed questionnaires from the Community Led Plan of 2015-16 and asked that the Council be requested to disband the working group.

The Clerk read all the relevant extracts from the minutes of that period (reproduced below, at the Chairman's request):

12th Oct 2015

131/15 Parish Plan:

Volunteers are needed to join the working group and a date for a meeting in January will be arranged soon.

23rd November 2015

151/15 Parish Plan:

There is to be an ACT training event on 19th January in Ambleside and Councillors and others involved in the Parish Plan may attend. A provisional date of 27th January was fixed for a meeting in Casterton to discuss the Parish Plan following the training and we now have a working group of councillors and residents.

18th January 2016:

16/9 Parish Plan:

There is a training session in Ambleside on 19th January, when Councillors and volunteers from the parish are welcome to attend. The first meeting of the working group is to be held on 27th January at 7pm at the Village Hall, when all attending should have made a point of reading the previous Parish Plan.

15th February 2016:

16/23 Community-Led Plan:

Councillor Humphris reported that the working group had met on 27th January, when three Councillors and three residents had been present, plus a representative from Casterton School and a facilitator from ACT. The plan had now been renamed as the 'Community-Led Plan (Casterton Parish)'. A simple questionnaire is being prepared, to be distributed to all residents, including visitors to the parish and the completion date for this to be returned is 21st March. The next meeting of the working group is 29th February at 7pm at Casterton Golf Club.

23rd May 2016 meeting:**16/43 Community-Led Plan:**

In March, a short questionnaire was delivered to all households, and the facility to respond was also made available on the village website. At the working group meeting on 12th May, the responses to the paper questionnaires were opened, and the content of these, together with those submitted via the website, were analysed to produce a summary of the things about Casterton that people either liked, disliked or would like to change. A total of 31 individual responses (29 adult, two children) was received, representing 15% of the total population, and this number may include duplicates from the same person/people. The questionnaire for the 2012 Parish Plan elicited a response rate of 64% amongst adults. The next meeting, on 26th May, will decide the next steps.

Minute of 4th July 2016 meeting:**16/60 Community-Led Plan:**

There was a very disappointing response to the questionnaires delivered to every house in the village. Only 39 had hard copy/email responses were received and some of these may have been duplicates from some individuals, giving a response rate of less than 15% (This compares with about 65% for the 2012 Parish Plan questionnaire). In addition, the responses contained very few issues of substance that had not been identified in the previous plan.

The Chairman and five other members of the working group considered that the size and nature of the responses undermined the credibility and usefulness of the process, and believe that it is best if the process starts afresh, with new people and preferably with no Parish Councillors involved. All six resigned from the working group.

The remaining three working group members intend to progress the gathering of information from the community.

There is, therefore, nothing to disband as no further activity took place after the above date.

Councillor Coombs suggested that, as this was a long time ago, there was no point in looking back but the Council may consider a Community Led plan as an agenda item at a future meeting.

The Clerk will inform Mrs Murray of the Council's response, but thank her for the material sent, which will be archived with the parish records.

20/48 Public issues:

This item had been added when the Council did not have 'public participation', when remote meetings were first being held. It will now be taken off the agenda.

20/49 Date of the next meeting:

**Monday 18th January 2021 by ZOOM at 7pm
(this will be the Precept Meeting)**

The Council then resolved to exclude members of the public, due to the confidential nature of the matters to be discussed:

(The 'public' part of the meeting closed at 7.50pm)

20/50 Website:

The Clerk had circulated a brief report to Councillors. The following are the present facts:

- a. The Clerk had drafted an Accessibility Statement as agreed (minute 20/35a refers) shortly after the last meeting. No objections had been received from Councillors and so this now stands as the Council's official statement that imposing the Accessibility Regulations on a very small Council is a disproportionate burden.
- b. No ideas, costs or quotations for a future website had been submitted by the due date (minute 20/35b refers) and a reminder had also been sent. It was therefore not possible to discuss a future website at the present time.
- c. The Clerk said that Dr Ken Humphris is happy to continue running the present website but, as the matter has been under discussion for some time, a decision needs to be made.

It was resolved that Dr Humphris be requested to continue running the website for 12 months and be offered an honorarium of £150, in recognition of the many years he had performed this service free of charge.

The Council then has 12 months, during which time all possible options can be considered.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed: