

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held by ZOOM on Monday 18th January 2021 at 7pm.

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

21/1 Public participation:

Residents present raised the following points:

- a. The Council's minutes on the website only go back to 2017 and it was requested that the minutes back to 2011 are made available. Also that the 'draft' strikethrough is deleted on approved minutes. The Clerk will action this as soon as is reasonably possible.

It was also pointed out that the dates of any future meetings are not available on the website. (The reason for this of course is that, due to the pandemic, it is not possible to arrange a full schedule of meetings in advance).

- b. The siting of the second defibrillator at High Casterton was raised as it was alleged that there was no formal decision/transparency at the time the agreement was signed and that it was a bad decision, the site being unsuitable. The Clerk agreed to obtain details of the contract, the signatories to it and the period the Council might be 'tied into'. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

21/2 Requests for Dispensations: None.

21/3 Declarations of Interest:

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

21/4 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2020, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, with the insertion of the following words:

(minute 20/47) *'The Chairman did not believe the Community-Led Plan had been formally concluded'*

21/5 Finance:

- a. The cash and budget statements were noted and any payments made since the last meeting were approved.
- b. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon South Lakeland District Council for the financial year 2021-22 in the sum of £8,750 (this is a slight reduction on last year's figure).

- c. The Annual CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Report had been circulated and was noted. The Clerk will notify Councillors before the next meeting as to what sort of projects this money can be used for.

21/6 Planning:

It was noted that the following application has been withdrawn:

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.

21/7 Reports:

Councillor Lancaster reported as follows:

- a. 'Weekend bikers' meeting. This group has recently set up and they have held their first meeting (see also below).
- b. SLDC has submitted a bid to central government for a Unitary Authority - 'The Bay'. It is expected there will be further consultations in February or March but no decision has been made yet on which of the options put forward (if any) will be accepted.
- c. Elections will be held on 6th May - but nothing is known yet as to the manner in which this will take place. (Councils are strongly advised to continue with remote meetings until at least that time).

21/8 Maintenance issues:

The list of outstanding maintenance issues was considered and the following were noted:

- a. Well Lane - awaiting action from CCC Highways.
- b. Sheepfolds - the Clerk had circulated the emails in his records to Councillors.
- c. There is no news yet on the future use of the LAP money held by Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council.
- d. Further work has been carried out on the BT manhole cover and the excess water is now flowing into a culvert.
- e. Drainage on Chapel House Lane - the new owner of the land in question has been contacted and is open to possible improvements.
- f. Only pothole repairs have been carried out on Whelprigg Road and there is still standing water on Wandales Lane.

21/9 Parish defibrillators:

(also see minute 21/1b above)

There were no volunteers to take on this work but the Clerk will make enquiries with the resident who raised the issue and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

21/10 Hedge cutting on the lanes in the parish:

The problem of hedge trimmings not being removed and causing problems for both residents and visitors had been raised at the last meeting by a member of the public. It was agreed to make this an agenda item again when the appropriate season approaches and in the meantime to encourage contractors to use the best available machinery and for employers to emphasise the necessity of picking up after their work.

21/11 Footpath signage on Laitha Lane:

The Chairman agreed to have a further look at this issue but he felt it was a 'non-starter' as the landowner probably would not agree to it.

21/12 Casterton Twinning:

Councillor Evans hopes to bring an update to the Council at the next meeting.

21/13 Community-Led Plan:

It was resolved that this is not a good time to be embarking on a new Plan, due to the pandemic. The issue may be looked at again in due course.

(A letter had been received last week from a resident asking the Council to formally disband the Working Group - this arrived too late for consideration at this meeting).

The Clerk said that the agenda item to consider a new Community-Led Plan clearly implied that the previous one had ended.

Councillor Lancaster helped the Council by pointing out that the previous Plan automatically ceased to exist, once the previous Council were no longer in office, and the new Council had not taken up their work on this.

This was acceptable to the Council and all that remained to be done was to thank all (formally, in these minutes) who took part in the Plan at the time, the Working Group and the volunteers who assisted in the distribution and collation of material.

The matter is now closed.

21/14 Website:

Councillor Coombs had produced a full report and the thanks of the Council are noted. It was resolved that a website company and package would be recommended to Council at the May meeting, a decision made around July with the aim of setting up a new site around September.

21/15 Open Forum:

- a. The Clerk will thank Edward Begg for gritting Wandale Lane during the recent bad weather.
- b. The thanks of the Council are expressed in these minutes to Laura Mawdsley and Liz Burke for the provision of the Christmas lights on the Village Green and at the Church.
- c. The Council is grateful to Councillor Cotton for arranging the delivery of grit, especially when the road to Bull Pot was dangerous.
- d. The Chairman had attended the 'weekend bikers' meeting, organised by the Clerk at Garsdale Parish Council. Most parishes along the route used by the bikers are represented. A brief discussion took place and the Chairman said any other Councillor could attend instead if they wished. Councillor Evans indicated he would be interested.
- e. The Clerk pointed out that if a Councillor does not attend a meeting for a period of six months he/she is automatically disqualified from office. Councillor Lancaster understood there was a Dispensation in place, due to the pandemic, to allow such an absence. The Clerk will contact CALC for advice.

21/16 Date of the next meeting:

Thursday 13th May 2021 at 7pm by ZOOM (provisionally)
(This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting)

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed: