

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Casterton Parish Council

held by ZOOM on Thursday 27th May 2021 at 7.15pm.

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

21/17 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Chris Benson was elected Chairman for 2021-22

21/18 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

It was resolved to leave this position vacant until there are more Councillors.

21/19 Co-option to fill Casual Vacancy:

A Casual Vacancy occurred, through the disqualification for non-attendance of Stephen Wilman. Lisa Lodge was co-opted to fill this seat. The Clerk will send the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to Councillor Lodge, so she can function as a Councillor without waiting to sign at the next meeting.

21/20 Public participation - (Councillor Coombs chaired this item)

- a. A request was made to the Council to consider a project to make a permissive path between Casterton and Kirkby Lonsdale, as there is a lack of a safe route along the A683. It would possibly lead from the Club House to Casterton Garage. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- b. Caterton Community Trust. There have been no meetings of the Trust since January 2020. Nothing has been heard from the Trust over the past year and there has been no income from the school since 2018. Councillor Chris Benson is the Council's representative so the Clerk will ascertain what the current position is and report back to the next meeting.
- c. A request from the last meeting was repeated for the minutes of the Council from 2011 to be made publicly available. The Clerk had passed the request on to the webmaster. However, the Council does not give instructions as to how long minutes should be available on the website, but 12 months is the minimum period recommended. The minutes are archived regularly at the Record Office, but the speaker had been informed that there are minutes during that period that are missing. The Clerk has all the minutes on a hard drive which is backed up on a daily basis and he can supply the missing minutes to the Record Office. The Clerk will liaise with Councillors and the webmaster before responding further.
- d. Further to the public discussion on the High Casterton defibrillator at the last meeting, the Clerk had supplied the enquirer with some details which had been passed on to him by former Councillor Steve Bentley. It seems uncertain as to what period the Council were contracted to retain the defibrillators under the present arrangements. Clearly, more research is needed and the Clerk agreed to enquire further.

21/21 Requests for Dispensations: None.

21/22 Declarations of Interest:

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

21/23 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2021, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

21/24 Finance:

- a. The provisional accounts for 2020-21 were noted.
- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Certificate of Exemption, the Accounting Statements and the Annual Governance Review.

21/25 Planning - the following applications were considered and approval recommended:

S/05/41 Erection of garden shed/summerhouse at 4 Crookenden Row, Low Wood, Casterton.

S/05/9A Change of use of land to form extension to the existing caravan park, and siting of 23 holiday static caravans and associated infrastructure at Woodclose Caravan Park, High Casterton.

21/26 Maintenance issues:

The Chairman reported as follows:

- a. Well Lane - no progress with the gully just below the railway bridge.
- b. Some potholes have been filled on the road to Barbon from the railway bridge.
- c. Possible subsidence - the road surface is very uneven from Lanthwaite cross roads to Bent Lane.
- d. Lanthwaite cross roads - cavers to do more surveys as some sinkage has occurred. .
- e. Wandales Lane - the surface is rough - agreement in principle has been made with the land owner to use the land drains but further surveys are required.
- f. More signage warning of ice in winter is being explored. at least at Gateshead Brow.
- g. Tarmac at Gateshead Brow - no progress made.
- h. Chapelhouse Lane - land drainage could be used there.
- i. A65 Loop road - some work to alleviate flooding in that area has been carried out.
- j. Tar spraying has been completed on Bent Lane, after pothole filling had been carried out earlier.
- k. BT manhole cover - this has been attended to and appears to be satisfactory.
- l. The grit bin at Colliers cross roads has been destroyed by a vehicle. The Clerk will ask CCC to supply a new one and also ask if the salt can be transferred.
- m. A resident was verbally abused by trail bikers at Brownthwaite and the matter had been referred to Councillor Cotton. The Police has also become involved, both the Cumbria and North Yorkshire Forces. The Chairman agreed to contact Councillor Cotton about some improved signage to deter motor cycles from using this lane.
- n. Dog fouling is becoming a problem again and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

21/27 Parish defibrillators:

This had been discussed under public participation earlier in the meeting. The Clerk will continue his enquiries and in the meantime, Councillor Coombs will speak to the two former Councillors who have kindly continued with the regular maintenance, in order to ask how long they are prepared to do so, in the absence of any volunteers to take the task on. A poster will also be displayed advertising for volunteers. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

21/28 Casterton Twinning:

Councillor Evans reported that this is in hand, photographs and an email are due to be sent to Casterton, Australia and there should be a report at the next meeting.

21/29 Website:

A very full report had been prepared by Councillor Coombs and the Chairman thanked him for his excellent research. It was resolved, out of the five companies contacted, to set up the new website using NarkeDesign which uses a Wordpress platform. It is anticipated that this will be formally in use by November, and the arrangement will be put in place in either September or October.

21/30 Date and place of the next meeting:

Monday 23rd August 2021 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall (provisionally).

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: (C. Benson)

Dated: 23rd August 2021