

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 8th August 2011 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Enid Hastings (Chairman), John Bye, May Mackie and Claire Wildsmith, County and District Councillor K J Lancaster, District Councillor E Westwood, PCSO Rachel Thomas, six members of the public and the Clerk Mr K M Price. Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor I Mcpherson and Dr Ken Humphris.

12/11 Declaration of Casual Vacancy:

The Chairman announced that Councillor Laura Mawdsley had tendered her resignation as a Parish Councillor and a Casual Vacancy was therefore declared. The Clerk outlined the procedure to be adopted and will notify SLDC of this. The Council recorded its thanks to Councillor Mawdsley for her valuable contribution over the years, both as a Councillor and as Chairman.

13/11 Declaration of Interests:

Councillor Mackie declared a personal interest in the planning application SL/2011/0630 to be discussed.

14/11 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2011 having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15/11 Police

PCSO Rachel Thomas reported that the current community priority for Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale is anti-social behaviour at The People's Hall in Sedbergh. There is a monthly drop-in event at Booths in Kirkby Lonsdale on the first Thursday in each month, from 6 to 8pm and residents are welcome to attend and to suggest future community priorities. There is also a drop-in at Binfold Croft from 2 to 4pm on the same day. There have been a number of reports of bags and valuables being stolen from unattended motor vehicles and motorists are asked not to leave these on display and preferably to remove them completely when leaving the vehicle. Copies of the report are available from the Clerk.

16/11 Chairman's announcements:

- a. It has been confirmed from SLDC that a notice to replace the hedgerow on Chapelhouse Lane which was removed earlier this year was issued and hand delivered to the owner on 12th July 2011, taking effect from that date – the time for compliance is by 31st Jan 2012.
- b. Two parishioners had complained that on 1st July, a contractor had cut the grass verges on Fell Road on the way to Bull Pot destroying all the wild orchids which were in bloom. Joanne Parker, Highways Inspector, has responded with an apology and confirmed this was a mistake by the Contractor, and the dates have been clarified for next year.

- c. There has been a delivery of a yellow grit bin – a green one had been ordered. This has been sited at the crossroads by the golf course. The Council is investigating obtaining another bin/grit for High Casterton and the availability of a bin/grit at the top of Gateheads Lane.
- d. Four Councillors have attended courses run by CALC in Kirkby Lonsdale and Crooklands and the Clerk is to attend a course on PAYE in Penrith later this week.
- e. SLDC is reviewing their Car Parking Strategy and is seeking the views of the public. Recently the District Council introduced charges for Blue Badge Holders and has agreed with Cumbria Disability Network to review this after six months. Also under review is how car parks are operated, how to make the costs of parking fair and the use of modern technology, ie number plate recognition, paying by phone or credit card. This consultation starts 6th July and runs until 28th September. Everyone is invited to take part in this survey and details can be obtained from the Chairman or Clerk, who will send the link for it to be completed online. Alternatively, if more information is required or a paper copy, Parking Services at SLDC should be contacted. (01539 797534).
- f. The three tubs opposite the Village Hall are now planted and the thanks of the Council are extended to those who gave plants and came along and planted them - special thanks to Graham and Jean Lobley.
- g. Advice from the Environment Agency for householders who need to register a sewage discharge is available from the Chairman or Clerk and will be placed on the website and notice boards.

(The business of the Council was then adjourned)

Public participation:

- a. (ref. minute 16/11(b) above). Cutting down of wild orchids. It was suggested that notices designating heritage verges should be erected. The Clerk agreed to obtain the mowing plan from Joanne Parker.
- b. The Clerk was requested to bring to the attention of Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council that Stanley Bridge is becoming overgrown with weeds.
- c. It was pointed out that, in the minutes of the last meeting, a public comment that Natural England was not an independent body was not included, nor was a 'No Wind Farms' comment. The Chairman emphasised that the minutes are a summary of what was said and not a verbatim report.

(The business of the Council was then resumed)

17/11 Light at Fern Croft/Smithy Howe:

Councillor Lancaster said that money had been allocated to this project for some time and it was possible that there might be more funding available than the £2,000 originally anticipated. It was resolved that Councillor Lancaster, Keith Masser of the Highways Authority, and two Parish Councillors would meet together to progress the matter. The Chairman thanked Councillor Lancaster and Councillor Bye for the investigations carried out so far.

It was resolved that the £1,000 donation from Casterton School towards a light at Church Lane should be ring-fenced in the Council's accounts.

18/11 Officer's Reports:

- a. Public Rights of Way. Councillor Wildsmith reported that the footpath to Riddings Wood had been fenced off. Davis & Bowring had been contacted and said that this was to protect the pheasants there. There is damage to the surface of the path and it is extremely wet and muddy. They had agreed to inspect the path to discover if any simple remedial work could be carried out on the surface and it was resolved to wait to see if the path can be drained.

The Chairman thanked Annette Benson for her work as Footpaths Officer in recent years and made a presentation to her as a token of the Council's appreciation.

It was confirmed that Graham and Jean Lobley will be assisting Councillor Wildsmith in her combined role as Public Rights of Way/Footpaths Officer.

- b. Highways. Councillor Bye reported that he had met Barry Addison, who is the local manager of the 'Better Highways' team on 27th June and had inspected the highways in the parish. Many of the problems reported had been attended to within a week. Running water problems at the top of Gateshead Lane and on Well Lane are yet to be resolved.
- c. Village Hall. Councillor Mackie reported that there had been a major cleaning day in June, when windows, cupboards and lights had been thoroughly cleaned. The list of events taking place during the winter would be available soon.

19/11 Financial business:

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

HMRC	£32.80	PAYE (noted)
Casterton Village Hall	£21.00	Rent (noted)
BDO	£180.00	External Audit (noted)
CALC	£29.00	Chairman's training course
T W & E Dennison	£165.00	Re-painting road signs

- b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit of the Council's accounts had now been completed by BDO and there were no matters arising to bring to the Council's attention.
- d. The Clerk reported on a recent meeting he had attended in Carlisle to re-launch the Cumbria Branch of the Society of Local Council Clerks. An officer of the Society had spoken on Clerks and home working and PAYE issues. HMRC will allow Clerks to be paid £3 per week for the use of their home office and the Council resolved to pay this amount, with effect from 1st July 2011.
- e. The cheque for £30 for HICas Consultancy Limited (Contract of Service) was to be paid (ref. minute 6/11(d) last meeting).

20/11 Clerk's Report:

- a. The Clerk's Contract of Employment was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.
- b. The parish information sheet (ref. minute 5/11(q) last meeting) has now been produced and is on the website and the notice boards.
- c. The next Tripartite Meeting will be at Casterton on Monday 24th October 2011 at 7.30pm.
- d. Cumbria Rural Housing Trust. The results of the Housing Needs Survey are not yet available.
- e. Dr Ken Humphris had offered to assist with the revision of the Parish Plan if required.
- f. The Clerk reported that he had deposited two minute books, covering the periods 1986-1995, and 1995-2004 in the County Records Office in Kendal and had obtained a receipt for them.
- g. Cumbria Highways. It was confirmed that Casterton would be included in the Annual Public Rights of Way Improvements Programme for this financial year. The Clerk agreed to ask if any help could be given with the footpath through Riddings Wood (ref. minute 18/11(a) above).
- h. The next meeting of the South Lakeland District Association of CALC is to be held at Brettargh Holt on Thursday 15th September 2011 at 7pm.
- i. SLDC Parish Remuneration Panel. It was resolved that no allowances will be claimed by Councillors in 2012-13.
- j. The Clerk reported that he had been handed a letter from Mr R D Murray just as the last meeting was about to commence and, as there had not been time to read the letter it was not reported at the meeting. The letter concerned the proposed expansion of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. The Clerk had acknowledged the letter and had subsequently received a further letter from Mr Murray which was then read to the Council. Mr Murray considered that the action in not allowing the original letter to be read was not in the public interest. The Council resolved to respond, pointing out that the Standing Orders of the Council require letters to be sent to the Clerk at least 10 days prior to a meeting, to enable them to be circulated to all Councillors and, if necessary, placed on the agenda.

21/11 Standing Orders:

The proposed abridgement of the Standing Orders from the CALC website had been circulated to all Councillors and it was resolved to adopt these to replace the previous ones, with one Councillor abstaining.

22/11 Planning:

- a. *The following decisions, notified to the Council by the Planning Authority, were noted:*

SL/2011/0262 Casterton School, Casterton. Alterations and erection of single storey room over internal courtyard. Granted.

SL/2011/0311 Field number 7236 adjacent A683 Devils Bridge, Kirkby Lonsdale. Alteration to field access onto the highway and associated engineering works (partially retrospective). Granted.

- b. *The following application was discussed:
(Councillor Mackie left the room during the discussion)*

SL/2011/0630 The Coach House, Casterton. Refusal recommended, as the Council believe the proposed development will compromise the viability of the adjacent hotel business, by removing staff accommodation, and will possibly lead to the loss of a valuable community facility.

23/11 Queen's Diamond Jubilee:

The Chairman has spoken to Henry Bowring, who has been in contact with the High Sheriff in Carlisle and a beacon can be placed on Brownthwaite to mark the event. It was resolved to form a working party to organise appropriate celebrations and to write to all village organisations, inviting them to participate and to appoint a representative. The Chairman and Clerk will liaise and report back to the next meeting.

(District Councillor Westwood left the meeting at 8.55pm)

24/11 Parish Plan:

It was resolved to formalise a working party to address this matter once a new Councillor is co-opted. The aim is to complete the work by the end of this year. The present Councillors will start work on the revision in the meantime.

25/11 LAP:

Councillor Mackie agreed to take on this role, subject to any new Councillor not wishing to do so. She will attend the next LAP meeting, which is to be held at Mansergh on Wednesday 7th September 2011 at 7pm.

26/11 Dates of next meetings:

These were agreed as follows (please note change of dates for November and December):

Monday 19th September 2011

Monday 17th October 2011

Monday 7th November 2011

Monday 5th December 2011

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed:

Dated: