

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd May 2012, at 8.30pm.

Present were Councillors John Bye (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Enid Hastings, May Mackie and Claire Wildsmith, District Councillors N Cotton and E Westwood, three members of the public and the Clerk Mr K M Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ken Humphris, District Councillor I Mcpherson and PCSO Karen Dakin.

39/12 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Enid Hastings was elected Chairman for 2012-13.

The Council then received the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

40/12 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

Councillor John Bye was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2012-13.

41/12 Election of Representatives:

- a. Public Rights of Way Officer – Councillor Wildsmith.
- b. CALC – Councillor Mackie.
- c. Village Hall – Councillor Mackie.
- d. Better Highways – Councillor Bye.
- e. LAP – Councillor Humphris.
- f. Travelling and settled community – Councillor Hastings.

42/12 Declarations of Interest:

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

43/12 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2012, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

44/12 Chairman's and Councillor's announcements:

- a. Parking on the pavement outside the village hall. The Village Hall Committee has requested the Council progress this matter. The Highways Authority and the Police have been contacted for advice and confirm that it is illegal to drive on to the pavement, which occurs in order to park the car there. The Council has received a letter from a resident (circulated) objecting to any restrictions to parking on the pavement on safety grounds. The recommendation from both the Police and the Highways Authority is that it is safer to fully park a vehicle on the road outside the Hall as this slows the traffic down to overtake the parked vehicle. The Chairman to confirm the wording 'no parking on the pavement' notice with the Police before having the notices made and mounted on the wall of the Village Hall.
- b. The Enforcement Officer was contacted regarding the farm buildings on the left hand side of the A683 – extending the hard standing by stealth. This is now much bigger than it was six months ago. The Chairman agreed to contact the Officer again.
- c. The issue of another 'planning extension' at LA6 2SD was raised (photograph circulated) and it was resolved to add notify the Enforcement Officer of this.
- d. The tipping on railway bank continues – the Council awaits a response from Environmental Health.
- e. Annual Boon day, date to be decided at next meeting.

- f. The next Tripartite meeting is 11th June at Barbon.
- g. The next LAP meeting is at Barbon on 30th May.

45/12 Lighting on the A683:

The signing-off of the contract is awaited in around two week's time.

46/12 Officer's Reports and updates:

- a. Public Rights of Way Officer. Councillor Wildsmith reported as follows:
 - i. Trail bikers - Steve Pighills, PROW Officer, Cumbria Trail Riders Fellowship Group, has advised that a sign has been put up at the caravan site at the beginning of Laitha Lane, alerting trail bikers that it is a Definitive Bridleway and that it is illegal to ride a motorcycle along it. He suggests the Council might do the same on Fell Foot Road where trail bikers have been seen in the past.
 - ii. Michael Bartholomew, Chairman of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lane Alliance, has been in touch suggesting that the Council, following becoming part of the National Park, might be interested in being affiliated to their organisation which offers advice on illegal riding by trail bikers etc. They would be happy to send somebody to a meeting to explain what they do, in particular they have found that 'close liaison with local police officers, careful and accurate reports by members of the public, and confidence about precisely which routes are legal and which are not, can contribute to successful prosecutions of law-breakers'. Following his suggestion that our local officer could help, Karen Dakin, our PCSO, was contacted. She replied that *'in the past the Police have worked together with Yorkshire Dales National Park and myself in particular and have contact with Paul Wilkinson who is the area ranger for the National Park. If trail bikes are using bridleways then please report this to the Police by calling 101 ideally when the bikes are there. If possible it is helpful if you can pass on any registrations as then we can contact the owners even if the bikes have gone on our arrival. I know this is not always possible as they are quite often covered in mud.'*
 - iii. Footpaths - Hazel Wainwright of Countryside Access has been contacted about various issues. Footpath 509008 Ridding Wood - as reported many times since August 2011 this path has become virtually impossible to walk because of the extensive muddy stretch onto which the public are forced following the erection of the fence by Underley Estate. The information is that the contractor will look at the site shortly to assess the situation and provide an estimate for drainage work. This means that the job is on the list but no firm date for doing the work has been specified. Parishioners are alerted that there are some bullocks in the field behind Casterton Grange close to Ridding Wood which are extremely intimidating. If anyone has similarly been affected by them or hears of any incident involving them please let the Council know.
 - iv. Fallen trees have affected two paths – 509008 through Ridding Wood and the path by the golf course 509019. These have now been dealt with.
 - v. Laitha Lane - If a working party on footpaths is set up to improve the surface and drainage of Laitha Lane under the Rights of Way Improvement Plan the County Council would provide some help and advice on putting a scheme together.
- b. Highways. Councillor Bye reported on the continued problems in getting any sort of response at all from the Better Highways team. The Clerk confirmed that this is the situation in all the parishes where he is Clerk. There are 26 outstanding issues in Casterton and, apart from some potholes being repaired on Wandales Lane, nothing has been done in recent weeks. It was resolved to raise the matter at the LAP meeting on 30th May and the Clerk agreed to ask CALC if this is a problem confined to South Lakeland Councils or whether it is county-wide.

- c. Village Hall. Councillor Mackie reported that the AGM had been held on 14th May and there was no change in the officers, although new members had been elected to the Committee. The accounts showed that expenditure was more than income due to the re-decoration of the Hall both inside and out, and the upgrading of the gent's toilet. The last function of the 2011-12 programme will take place on Saturday 26th May when a plant, cake and coffee morning will be held at 10.30am. A sub-committee will be organising the 2012-13 programme which will include a function in recognition of the centenary of the Hall.
- d. Parish Plan. The questionnaires have now been circulated and it is intended that the Parish Plan will be completed by December.
- e. Village Green. This had already been reported upon at the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting.
- f. LAP. Councillor Mackie reported that five LAP meetings have been held during the past year. The agenda has largely been taken up with highways matters but there appears to be little action following these discussions. The provision of High-Speed Broadband continues to be a major issue. There is to be a presentation on housing by Councillor Peter Thornton at the next meeting.

47/12 Public Rights of Way improvements:

It was resolved to set up a working group, led by Councillor Wildsmith, to deal with Public Rights of Way issues. All Councillors are welcome in the group and are requested to email Councillor Wildsmith if they have any ideas. Non-Councillors may also be co-opted on to the group.

48/12 Resilience Plan:

The working group is not meeting until after the Jubilee events. The Council will be the first point of contact in an emergency. The Chairman and other Councillors and residents will make up the group.

49/12 Clerk's Report:

Having been consulted by the Audit Commission, the Council resolved to make no objections to the appointment of BDO as External Auditor for the forthcoming five years.

50/12 Financial business:

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

CALC	£121.00	Annual subscription
K M Price	£120.50	Quarterly expenses to 31 st March (includes stationery and use of office)
Burneside Parish Council		
	£100.00	Contribution towards new photocopier
Society of Local Council Clerks		
	£25.80	Annual subscription (12% of £215)
K M Price	£32.99	Cash ledger

- b. The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2012 were presented and approved. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign Parts 1 and 2 of the Annual Return.
- c. It was resolved to contribute £100 towards the new photocopier purchased by Burneside Parish Council, which is used by several Councils for which the charge is only 2p per copy.

- d. Councillor Humphris and the Clerk had considered the insurance cover required by the Council and it was resolved to accept the quotation provided by Zurich Municipal in the sum of £399.09 and to cancel the present policy with Came & Co as from the renewal date of 1st June 2012.

51/12 Planning:

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

SL/2012/0277 Lowgill, High Casterton. Second storey rear roof extension.

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

SL/2012/0186 Townend Farm Cottage. Alterations to access, erection of a garage and the construction of a canopy and additional storage. Granted (with conditions)

SL/2012/0125 The Croft, High Casterton. Alterations and extension (revised scheme to SL/2011/0767). Granted (with conditions).

52/12 Date of next meeting:

Monday 18th June 2012 at Casterton Village Hall at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed:

Dated: