

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 20th August 2012 at 7.30pm.

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

Car parking presentation:

The Chairman introduced Mr Mark Fuller who gave a presentation on a recent study of car parking in the town.

Mr Fuller thanked all those who had helped; the report did not claim to know everything about car parking in Kirkby Lonsdale or to present all the solutions. The purpose of the report is to bring together as much information as possible to inform, stimulate, enthuse and debate with all the stakeholders involved and to provide a sound base from which the project can be built. It has become clear that there are significant costs involved in car parking and there are significant revenues to be earned. For the project to be successful and to benefit the town, it should be looked upon as a business, offering value for money, make a return on investment and offer benefits to residents and visitors. The field at Devil's Bridge, owned by Lake District Estates is also being considered to be included in the project and there is on going discussion with Jim Walker, Chief Executive. It is unlikely that public funding will be received and likely that this project will cost every section of the community. The objective therefore has to be to keep costs to an absolute minimum and to stimulate the economic development of the town with an increase in visitors to help pay for this. To progress this project more help is required from members of the public and any one interested should contact Mark.

The Chairman thanked Mr Fuller for an excellent report and both Councillors and members of the public asked a number of questions.

66/12 Public participation:

None.

67/12 Declarations of Interest:

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

68/12 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2012, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

69/12 County and District matters:

Councillor Lancaster said he had reported the difficulties in making progress with the lighting problems on the A683 to Kelly Alty (CCC) whom he felt would be able to assist in resolving the impasse.

70/12 Police Report:

None.

71/12 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

Jubilee seat – the second estimate for fitting has been obtained but the builder is unable to do work at present. The original builder has been contacted and asked to go ahead, the plaque has been ordered.

The WI has provided a tree, which has been planted outside the Village Hall.

The latest Newsletter with leaflets from Rural Wheels and Street Clean has been delivered to every property and it is hoped that individuals will respond to the Street Clean survey. Information on 'purchasing energy as a community' is in the Newsletter. Individuals can sign up between 1st August and 17th September, either on line (www.southlakeland.gov.uk) or by telephone 08450504434 or by calling in to SLDC

Developing Local Health Care in Cumbria. A public consultation has been launched asking for views from the public on how Cumbria's Local Health Watch should be set up. Consultation documents are available online www.cumbria.gov.uk hard copies from libraries and local links, the closing date is 24th August 2012.

CCC Trading Standards and Cumbria Fire & Rescue are offering free electric blanket testing Monday 1st October at County Offices Kendal. Further details are available from Trading Standards on 01539 713594.

New Community Bus Service – A group of local people is planning to run a community bus to serve Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh areas. Owen Large has volunteered to attend the next meeting later this month on behalf of Casterton.

A proposal to site a Community Produce Cupboard at the cross roads has been received from a resident. Excess of jams, fruit, vegetables, and plants could be put in the cupboard priced by the supplier and residents could purchase items – there would be an 'honesty' box in the cupboard.

CALC training on new Code of Conduct is at Kirkby Lonsdale Institute from 6.30 to 8pm on 21st August.

72/12 Lighting on A683:

The Chairman reported that Owen Croskell (CCC) had been contacted again & assured her that the lighting problems would be resolved soon.

The Clerk agreed to contact SLDC for further clarification concerning the street lighting charges.

73/12 Officer's Reports and updates:

- a. Highways. Councillor Bye reported that there had still been no visits from the Better Highways team, despite a new system being put into place recently. It was reported that this system is now running five weeks behind. The Council agreed that something must be done concerning the highways situation and it was resolved to await the outcome of the LAP recently being mandated to make contact with them.
- b. Public Rights of Way. Councillor Wildsmith reported that the working party to improve the condition of footpaths in the parish met on Monday 30th July. It was decided to focus on those areas in most need of improvement, i.e. Laitha Lane. Guy Timperley of the Countryside Access Team at Cumbria County Council suggested that the Council puts forward suggestions on a Rights of Way Improvement Plan form. CCC would give advice on the kind of work necessary, i.e. drainage and surfacing. Although funding for this year is committed he indicated that there may be a chance of funding next year. Feedback from the parish plan questionnaire, and the public meeting on 29th August will be useful in strengthening our case for improving public rights of way in the parish.

Footpath 509008 in Ridding Wood – this has been in an extremely bad condition for the past year, the matter being raised at the August 2011 Parish Council meeting. Last week, the Council was informed that although the drainage scheme has been surveyed and costed by the contractor, unfortunately the budget is frozen and there is no funding at present to carry out the work.

Tree on footpath 509010 in the wood behind Casterton School – Underley Estates have been contacted again and they have promised to remove this obstruction.

It has been noticed that footpath 509007 near the garage needs strimming and the Council has also been informed that footpath 509021 is not clearly marked and difficult to walk.

If anyone has noticed other rights of way in the parish which need attention please let Councillor Wildsmith know and a list of areas needing attention will be submitted to the Countryside Access Team of Cumbria County Council.

- c. Parish Plan. Councillor Humphris reported that formal analysis of individual responses has now taken place and these are to be presented at a public meeting at the Village Hall on 29th August at 7.30pm. The meeting is to be followed by wine and nibbles.
- d. Village Green project. The Chairman reported that around £2,400 has been spent so far on the project. Samples of possible seats and benches to be purchased were passed around for inspection. An apple tree or a group of small apple trees have yet to be obtained.
- e. Resilience Plan. The working group has met. A further meeting, involving Councillor Westwood is to be arranged shortly.
- f. Boon Day. The Chairman reported on the success of yesterday's Boon Day, a team of eight persons had weeded the area by the Village Hall, the pavement, and the border opposite the church, the War Memorial and under the laurel hedge. The Church gateway and area round the Village Hall and bus shelter had been swept. The stray nettles on Colliers Lane had all been cut down. The two village seats will be painted and the notice boards varnished at a later date.

74/12 Financial business:

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

Plantspace	£72.50	Village Green project – noted
Tarleton Specimen Plants	£577.46	Village Green project – noted
J L Mason	£100.00	Village Green project – noted
Burneside Parish Council	£15.46	Photocopying - 2011-12
Patrick Holmes	£486.99	Village Green project
K M Price	£37.84	Pay Award (April to August)
K M Price	£15.00	Office increase (April to June)

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. The Chairman reported on the Clerk's recent Appraisal and recommended that the Clerk should progress to SCP26 on the recommended salary scale, which would be an increase of £9.46 monthly. In line with HMRC allowances, the use of his home office can be reimbursed at the new rate of £18 monthly. Both these recommendations were unanimously agreed, to be backdated to 1st April 2012.
- d. The Clerk had queried the invoice for the Parish Online annual subscription. This had been put in place by the previous Council. It did not however appear to have any advantage over the free Ordnance Survey mapping that the Council is already registered for.

75/12 Planning:

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

SL/2012/0594 Casterton Golf Course. Single storey practice range building with associated landscape works.

- b. The Clerk reported on recent correspondence from Ron Bulman concerning additional work carried out at Woodlands, Casterton. A request had been made for an agenda item for a future meeting to discuss the Council's attitude to development planning. The Council resolved that this was unnecessary as the correct procedures and planning guidelines are already being followed.

76/12 Date of next meeting:

Monday 1st October 2012 at Casterton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Dated: