

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 1st October 2012 at 7.30pm.

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

77/12 Public participation:

A question was asked : whether the 'Green Streets' project of a few years ago had produced the expected cash benefit for the village. It was resolved to contact the school governors for clarification.

78/12 Declarations of Interest:

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

79/12 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th August 2012, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

80/12 County and District matters:

Councillor Cotton brought to the Council's attention the amount of Himalayan Balsam in the area and said he was planning to arrange work parties next June, July and August, in order to deal with this. He agreed to check the ownership of the field on the left hand side on the A683, after turning from the A65 at Stanley Bridge. He reported on a meeting he had attended, with Rob Kitchen of SLDC and the Portfolio Holder, to discuss litter picking issues, especially the provision of measures to ensure the safety of those who pick litter on busy roads.

An email from Councillor Lancaster was read by the Chairman, which highlighted matters which were to be taken up by him at his forthcoming meeting with Highways staff. A disproportionate number of these matters are sadly in Casterton.

81/12 Police Report:

The Clerk read the Police Report. It was agreed to ask Sgt. Stephens if a Police presence could be arranged, as it is some time since this has happened.

82/12 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. Jubilee seat – this has now been sited, the plaque fitted, and a group photograph is to be taken when Duncan and Jean Hamlett are available.
- b. The Gypsies have returned with three Bow Tops and two motorised caravans, camping in the loop road for two weekends out of three. SLDC, CCC Councillors and the Police have been contacted. A considerable amount of horse muck was left throughout the loop road and at the entrance to the caravan site.

On the Saturday afternoon of both weekends horse drawn traps and youths were riding horses through Main Street, up New Road and down Mitchelgate two or three times. Traps were parked at the narrowest point in Main Street and horses were left with children whilst adults went to get drinks and food. Horses grazed throughout the weekends on grass verges at the Bridges, so near as to step onto the road. 101 contacted – no police presence.

- c. Overgrown field at the Bridges – the owner has possibly been identified; if this is correct they should be written to, requesting the field be maintained. The overgrown Public Footpath by this field and the verge opposite will be strimmed on 9th October. There is also a dead horse chestnut tree which will be felled at the same time.
- d. David Greenup (School Maintenance) will be treating Himalayan Balsam and Knotweed at the Pinfold next week.
- e. Dog fouling continues in the school lanes and grounds. Two dogs roam freely and school staff are now aware who owns them. Details can be given to SLDC Street Clean and letters will be sent to individuals asking them to control their dogs and explaining the subsequent consequences. The School Maintenance Department has been provided with new 'notices' which will be replaced in the lanes, as most of originals have been removed.
- f. Jan Burgess Chairman at Barbon PC is leaving the area and has resigned.
- g. Dumping on the railway banking. This was never resolved and the Chairman and Councillor Cotton agreed to follow the matter up.

83/12 Lighting on A683:

The lamp is now attached to the pole and Electricity North West has connected it. It will, however, be more costly than originally thought. Councillor Bye said it was a 'savage indictment' that it had taken CCC three years to resolve this matter.

84/12 Officer's Reports and updates:

- a. Highways. Councillor Bye said there was not a lot to report but he has sent off a list of outstanding jobs requiring attention. Councillor Lancaster has got issues in hand concerning the Better Highways scheme.
- b. Public Rights of Way. Councillor Wildsmith reported as follows:

Footpath 509010 - The fallen tree across this path in the wood near Casterton School has now been cleared by Underley Estates.

Footpath 509001 – The extremely poor condition of this footpath across the field between Devil's bridge and Stanley Bridge has been reported to the Countryside Access Department who will arrange for the path to be strimmed.

Footpath 509008 Ridding Wood – The drainage work on the boggy area is still on hold, awaiting the unfreezing of the budget. The Lancaster branch of the Ramblers Association have added their weight to the regular requests for this work to be done, but have received a similar response, that nothing can be done because of lack of funds.

Bridleway 509019 - Laitha Lane -With regard to the improvement of Laitha Lane Councillor Humphris has agreed to survey it with a view to putting forward a proposal under the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

The Ramblers Association have been in contact regarding the poor condition of this path, and have promised their support in any proposal the Council puts forward.

Knotweed - Knotweed has been noted in two areas. The knotweed on the bank of the beck near the A683 will be dealt with by Casterton School. Knotweed in the woodland close to footpath 509008 near Casterton Beck which is on the Underley Estate has been reported to their Land Agent, Henry Armitage, who has indicated that they do not propose to take any action. Guy Timperley at Countryside Access suggests that the Council's concerns be put to Mr. Armitage in a formal letter, and that the Council checks whether it seems to be spreading. If it spreads onto the footpath the County Council will attempt to eradicate it.

- c. Parish Plan: A public meeting has been held to feed back the results of the questionnaires and this was reasonably attended and generally harmonious. The Chairman thanked Councillor Humphris for collating the questionnaires and presenting the results at the meeting. A representative from ACT will be invited to the next group meeting to start the process of putting these results into a plan.
- d. Village Hall: Councillor Mackie reported that a Committee meeting had been held and the winter programme agreed, the thanks of the Council were recorded to Ken and Jill Humphris for arranging and printing the Village Hall programme. There would be a Harvest Jacobs Join lunch on 14th October.
- e. Village Green project: This had been dealt with under 'Chairman's announcements'.
- f. Resilience Plan: An initial meeting has been held in order to put some ideas together and the information provided by ACT is to be examined.
- g. Casterton Newsletter: Councillor Humphris said the next edition of the newsletter would be 1st November and items for publication should be submitted before 18th October.
- h. Website: As the present website is unwieldy it was agreed to look at various options and Councillor Humphris agreed to be responsible for this.
- i. Broadband: Councillor Humphris said that a community initiative for Garsdale and Dentdale has been launched and this will receive government funding. It was resolved that the Council will support any move to roll out superfast broadband.

85/12 Maintenance of grass verges:

CCC Highways had been asked some time ago to provide details of verge cutting in the parish, together with the likely cost. Councillor Paul Stephenson and County Councillor Lancaster are to meet the contractor from Kirkby Lonsdale for a quotation for the tripartite group.

86/12 Clerk's Report:

- a. Audit Commission. BDO LLP has been appointed as External Auditor to the Council for the five years from 2012-13.
- b. Code of Conduct Dispensations. The guidance note from CALC was received and it was resolved to delegate to the Clerk authority to grant dispensations to enable affected Councillors to participate in setting the annual precept.

87/12 Financial business:

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

The Art Store	£15.00	Casterton Newsletter
Sustainable Furniture UK	£500.00	Village Green project (noted)
Charlesworths	£67.92	ditto
Plantscape	£199.45	ditto
F J Weekes	£280.00	Jubilee bench (noted)
Engraver (plaque)	£20.00	ditto
SLDC	£57.19	Election expenses noted)
HMRC	£185.80	PAYE
Ken Humphris	£27.35	Parish Plan event
Casterton Village Hall	£14.00	Hire of hall
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K M Price	£150.11	Expenses to 30 th September (includes stationery and use of office)

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. It was agreed to purchase two further large grit bins, and the Chairman agreed to deal with this.
- d. The notice boards in the parish are in desperate need of replacement and notices placed in them are becoming unreadable. An application is being made to the next Neighbourhood Forum for a grant towards this work, which was estimated to cost a total of £842.40.
- e. The Clerk gave a brief report on Clerk's pensions. It is not feasible, due to the high cost, for the Council to join the Local Government Pension Scheme. A government scheme (NEST) is to be available to Councils in due course but it may be some time before this is available to small parishes. The matter will be discussed again at the Precept Meeting.
- f. The Council has not yet settled the account from SLDC for street lighting and further enquiries made by the Clerk concerning the way in which this account had been calculated, had not received clear answers. It was therefore resolved to pay 6/7ths of the account (£368.50) in view of the fact that only six out of seven lamps had been working during the year in question.
- g. It was resolved to order the Remembrance Day wreath. The Clerk agreed to write to the Rector, to ask that the wreath is laid at 11am this year, and not at 10.45am as last year. Military personnel from Edinburgh are expected to be present.

88/12 Planning:

The following applications were discussed:

SL/2012/0750 Pearset Park, High Casterton. Demolition of bungalow and erection of replacement two storey dwelling and detached garage. Refusal is recommended as the proposed development:

- a. Changes the use of a field into a garden.*
- b. Is to be rendered and, if so, will be the only rendered property on that road.*
- c. The access will be too close to a narrow corner in the lane.*
- d. Its proposed balcony has a large overhang.*
- e. Is foreign to the valley in its design.*
- f. Would be better from a visual point of view if it was set back somewhat.*

The Council would not object in principle, and cannot recommend approval as the application stands.

SL/2012/1001 & 1002 Woodclose Park, High Casterton. Variation of condition No 14 (external colour of caravans) attached to planning permission SL/2010/0724. It was resolved to hold a site meeting on the following day.

89/12 Date of next meeting:

***Monday 19th November 2012 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall.
(This will be the Precept Meeting)***

Agenda items so far:

Dispensations for the Village Hall trustees.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed:

Dated: