

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 7th January 2013 at 7.30pm.

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

1/13 Public participation:

Mr Ian Ashworth addressed the Council concerning the Green Streets Project and the letter recently sent by the Council to the Chairman of the Governors of Casterton School. An anonymous letter had also been circulated to all the residents. The Chairman indicated that this matter would be discussed later in the meeting.

2/13 Requests for Dispensations:

None.

3/13 Declarations of Interest:

None.

4/13 Minutes:

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

5/13 County and District matters:

Councillor Cotton reported that a grant had been made by the LAP to provide 40 sets of equipment for participants in the Spring Litter Pick, which is to take place on the weekends on 9th/10th and 16th/17th March.

6/13 Police Report:

None.

7/13 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. The first Newsletter for 2013 is nearly ready to go out, and the regular distributors will be used.
- b. Confirmation has been received from Cumbria Transport that they will fund a Transport Information Board and allow Parish notices in one half to be sited on Village Green. Enquiries are taking place as to what funding is still available for the other notice board at the crossroads.
- c. Two grit bins have been purchased and sited and are awaiting more grit. Four grit shovels have been purchased and put in the four bins in High Casterton.

- d. Contact has been made regarding the order to replace the hedge at Braeslacks. The period allowed for compliance was granted between 1st November 2012 and 31st January 2013 and no work has started. A response was received, indicating that the department does not always send reminders to land owners due to time and lack of staff. However, working with Graham Nicholson is proving effective and an email was to be sent to him following the Council's enquiry. The Chairman will follow this matter up.
- e. Complaints have been received from residents regarding the removal of railway banking in High Casterton leaving an eroded area. The Enforcement Officer will be contacted by the Clerk.
- f. The Clerk had enquired regarding the cost of Dog Waste bins. The two bins in the parish could apparently be moved and used for dog waste, but after discussion it was resolved to take no further action.
- g. The work on the Village Green is almost completed. An apple tree is to be planted as weather permits. The total cost of the project was £3,144.87 excluding VAT.

8/13 Officer's Reports and updates:

- a. Highways. Councillor Bye reported that apparently £34,000 had been allocated for highways work that had not been requested. He had attended the LAP meeting on 27th November and raised highways issues but nothing further had happened.
- b. Public Rights of Way. Councillor Wildsmith reported as follows:

Bridleway 509019 - Laitha Lane. Councillors Humphris and Wildsmith met Chris Graham and Guy Timperley of CCC Countryside Access team today to discuss the improvement of this bridleway under the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The condition of the bridleway has deteriorated greatly since last October and it is clear that there is a great deal of work to be done to make it usable by walkers and riders. On the grounds of the size of the project and its associated cost it was decided that the work should be carried out in three phases, the first being the section between Woodclose Caravan site and its junction with the path which runs alongside Casterton Golf Course. Although the time scale will be a long one it was a fruitful meeting and the Council can be optimistic about the eventual outcome. The following points have been confirmed in an email from Chris Graham:

CCC to produce a detailed specification and estimated costs of the work agreed on site which will include all clearance and surfacing works

There is a potential offer of part funding from CCC for this project but this will not be confirmed until April.

CCC will work with the Parish Council to identify and secure external funding

The Parish Council will help in identifying and consulting with those landowners affected by the scheme once the specification has been drawn up

A temporary closure will be required for the works which will ideally occur at the end of August after the bird nesting season.

The Parish Council will also decide whether it wishes CCC to run the project, ie. liability, insurance, bankrolling of the project etc

- c. Parish Plan. The work on this is now drawing to a close and Councillor Humphris has circulated all Councillors, asking for comments. The Plan should be ready by the end of this month.
- d. Village Hall. Councillor Mackie reported that carol singing had taken place at pre-arranged houses and as a result £170 had been donated to North West Air Ambulance. The sizzle & fizz on 1st January had been very enjoyable but due to the low attendance there had only been £28 profit. The next function is the Burns Supper on Saturday 26th January. Tickets are available but are selling fast.
- e. Website. The new website is now set up at www.castertonvillage.org and is up and running. There are contact details as well as information on the Parish Council and the Village Hall, etc. The Church has been contacted to ask if they wish to use the site.
- f. Community bus. Councillor Mackie reported that the Western Dales Community Bus should be running by 1st April. More volunteer drivers are desperately required. A questionnaire is to be distributed during January and February in order to market the service and to ascertain the needs of users.
- g. Broadband. BT is now the only contender for the contract to provide faster broadband, which will bring the service to around 93% of Cumbria. The FibreGarden scheme and B4RN, both self-help schemes are an alternative if Casterton is in the 7%. It was resolved to produce a simplified version of the recent broadband flyer and put this on the website in order to raise the profile of the issue.

9/13 Clerk's Report:

The next Tripartite Meeting will be held on Monday 14th January 2013 at Casterton Village Hall at 7.30pm. No Clerks are available due to the change of date. Allan Muirhead has agreed to chair the meeting and Enid Hastings will take notes. Agenda items should be sent to the Clerk within two days.

10/13 Green Streets Project:

Following the earlier discussion under 'Public Participation' it was agreed to respond to the reply the Council had received from Casterton School before instigating arrangements to hold a public meeting to discuss the management of the finances relating to the Green Streets Project.

11/13 Financial business:

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

HMRC	£180.20	PAYE
T Flitcroft	£166.20	Website construction and travel
K Humphris	£11.99	Website domain payment
K M Price	£30.60	Website subscription
K M Price	£121.56	Quarterly expenses to 31 st December (includes use of office)

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. After consideration of the Budget Report presented by the Clerk it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon South Lakeland District Council for the financial year 2013-14 in the sum of £7,752.

12/13 Planning:

- a. *The following comment made since the last meeting was noted:*

SL/2012/0878 Casterton Hall, Casterton. Replacement of tarmac parking area with grassed lawn, installation of replacement pond and fountain, creation of steps, retaining walls and parking area. Approval recommended.

- b. *The following application was discussed:*

SL/2012/0750 Pearset Park, High Casterton. Demolition of bungalow and erection of replacement two storey dwelling and detached garage.

The Council accepts that this application has been amended to take into account most of the comments made previously, but would prefer to see both ends of the proposed development faced with stone. It is noted that the change of use of the field to garden was not mentioned in the application. The Clerk agreed to check these two points with the Planning Authority, before recommending approval.

13/13 Date of next meeting:

Monday 4th February 2013 at Casterton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed:

Dated: