

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 15th July 2013 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Enid Hastings (Chairman), John Bye, May Mackie and Claire Wildsmith, one member of the public and the Clerk Mr K M Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ken Humphris, District Councillors Nick Cotton and Ian McPherson, and PCSOs Karen Dakin and Amanda Coleman.

13/62 Public participation: None.

13/63 Requests for Dispensations: None.

13/64 Declarations of Interest:

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

13/65 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2013, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

13/66 County and District matters:

There were no County or District Councillors present. The Clerk agreed to ask if a brief report could be provided for any meetings of the Parish Council where there was no representation.

13/67 Police Report:

The Police Report had already been circulated. Details of drop-ins in the locality were given.

13/68 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. Two new Notice boards are now in situ – one in the bus shelter, and information 'I' on a blue circular background has been placed on the bus shelter. The other notice board at the crossroads is lockable, so a plastic envelope where notices can be left for inclusion is attached to the back of the board.
- b. The last Tripartite Meeting was held at Barbon in June attended by the Councillors Hastings, Humphris and Wildsmith. The next meeting will be at Casterton on 30th October.
- c. LAP is looking into providing training for councillors.
- d. Lakes to Dales - the Chairman attended the Public enquiry for National Park extensions on 4th June. The investigating officer will present his report in the autumn.
- e. At the recent LAP meeting attended by Councillors Hastings and Mackie, Graham Dalton and Nick Cotton were elected to share the Chairman's role in the coming year. Parishes were asked to provide a list of key issues in relation to health care and social services. The next meeting is to take place on Monday 14th October at Casterton Village Hall.
- f. Last year it was agreed to send a letter to all landowners before hedge cutting starts, reminding them of their responsibility to clear the cuttings.

- g. The water leak by the bus shelter is to be repaired soon. There has been a delay because the water to the school has to be turned off and it was decided to wait until the school finished for the holidays.
- h. Youths jumping off Devil's Bridge made national papers and TV. Police have attended and advised individuals against this practice and have names/pictures so it is expected that action will be taken to fine individuals in court. Residents are advised to phone 101 if this practice of 'Tomb stoning' is observed.

13/69 Officer's Reports and updates:

a. Public Rights of Way.

Bridleway 509019/509020 - Laitha Lane

As mentioned in the last report a bid for funding has now been submitted for this path under the SLDC New Homes Bonus for Locally Important Projects Scheme, the closing date for which was 14th June. So far, nothing has been heard from them yet. The two contacts, suggested by Councillor Nick Cotton, have also been approached as possible sources of funding. The first was Jack Ellerby of Friends of the Lake District. He kindly agreed to meet on Friday 5th July to have a look at Laitha Lane. He indicated that he would be willing to make a contribution to the project but had a few concerns which have been passed on to Chris Graham of CCC Countryside Access Team. The second contact was Tom Felix of Ingleton Quarry who has promised to contribute some stone. Joy Greenwood of Lancaster Ramblers Association has been contacted regarding footpaths in Casterton and has said they would be willing to make a contribution to the project but it is unsure at this stage how much this might be.

Footpath 500908 – Ridding Wood. With regard to the current stalemate following the failure of CCC and Underley Estate to come to some agreement about a possible joint project to improve the drainage of this path following damage done during logging early this year, it was suggested at the last meeting that CALC was contacted for advice. The following reply was received from David Claxton:

"Certainly the photograph with the man and the dog shows that the footpath surface presents some challenges to walkers. My understanding is that the owner of a public highway (which is how a public right of way is described) must maintain the land in a reasonably safe condition so as to avoid the likelihood of injury occurring. You mention below an incident where a member of the local ramblers group fell and injured themselves, and it would be worth bringing this to the landowner's attention in the discussion suggested below.

The County Council seems to share your concerns about the surface condition of the public right of way, and I think the way forward initially should be to suggest a meeting involving the Parish Council, the County Council and the landowner to try to reach a voluntary agreement about what action should be taken to improve the condition of the footpath. There is provision under section 56 of the Highways Act 1980 for a person to lay a complaint before the Magistrates Court requiring the County Council to carry out necessary repairs to the footpath. But this is very much a last resort (upon which you would need to take legal advice as to the prospect of success) and it would be much better if everyone agrees to sit round a table to talk.

Given what you say about the landowner it would seem to be in their interests too to discuss solutions to these problems”.

CCC is reluctant to carry out their original drainage scheme unless they can be reasonably sure that it will not be damaged by future activities on the part of the Underley Estate.

The Lancaster Ramblers Association has also been contacted regarding this matter. Joy Greenwood, Secretary, is of the opinion that they can do no more than ‘ask CCC for the surface to be restored to a reasonable condition. It is after all CCC's duty to keep Rights of Way in a reasonable condition and therefore they will have to try to come to some agreement with the Estate if they feel it is necessary’.

With regard to the barbed wire on the top of both fences, this is apparently acceptable if there is room for two people to comfortably pass one another when walking in opposite directions. However in this case a hazard arises when people try to walk round the muddy stretches forcing them to walk close to the barbed wire which again is ‘the County’s responsibility’.

It was resolved that the Clerk makes contact with the Pease family via Davis & Bowring, bringing these matters to their attention.

The stile at the end of FP509007 near the garage is broken and this has been reported to CCC.

- b. Highways. Councillor Bye reported that some verges were trimmed to eye-level 2 to 3 weeks ago. On the highways hot line number the following have been reported; the damaged signpost at the junction of the A65/A683, the fingerpost at Gateshead Lane and the drain on Chapel house Lane.
- c. Village Hall. Councillor Mackie reported that the kitchen is to be re-decorated during August, and a meeting of the Events Committee will be held to plan next year’s calendar. The next Committee meeting is in September.
- d. Broadband. The Chairman had attended the ‘Connecting Cumbria Meeting’ in Penrith and reported that until Open Reach had actually started ‘digging’ it would not be certain where the 7% areas would be. A small working group of 8 residents and councillors has been formed to monitor progress.
- e. Western Dales Bus Service. The service was launched at Dent Station with Tim Farron MP in attendance and the service is running on Saturdays and Sundays. A trial run with the bus has been held from Sedbergh to Kendal via Barbon & Casterton. It is hoped this new route will be the next to be brought into service.

13/70 Clerk’s Report:

The Good Councillor’s Guide has been re-published and the Clerk agreed to supply Councillors with the link to enable this to be viewed online.

13/71 Street lighting:

103 lamp is on a wooden pole belonging to BT and a new pole is required to be fitted by the end of September, this will require the Council's lamp being disconnected and reconnected at a cost of approximately £1800. However if the Council purchases a pole and erects it, transfer cost would be £900.

107 lamp is on a pole belonging to Electricity North West, who have to give the Council six months' notice that the Council's lamp can be moved to a new pole belonging to the Council. They will then transfer the lamp at no cost. If ENW do not give notice, but just remove the pole, they are liable for the cost of a new pole and the transfer of the lamp. It may be possible for Cabinet Member, Councillor Peter Thornton to help the Council with the cost of these changes.

A meeting has been arranged for next week between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and David Jones, the contractor to discuss the matter and obtain estimates.

13/72 Village Green:

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Council's insurers (minute 13/57 refers) and volunteers working on the Village Green under the Council's direction are covered under the Council's policy, without further charge. It was resolved to pay the two volunteers £125 each for the season as an honorarium.

13/73 Green Streets legacy:

A meeting has been arranged at Casterton Village Hall on Tuesday 30th July at 7.30pm, to agree a body to administer the money available to the village from the pay back generated by the solar panels on the gym at Casterton School. The meeting would have the status of a Parish Meeting and the Clerk agreed to take the minutes.

13/74 Grit bin at Langthwaite crossroads:

An additional grit bin is required at this location and the Chairman agreed to contact Councillor Cotton to ask for some funding towards a new bin.

13/75 Appleby Fair:

The Chairman had attended the Respect meeting earlier that day and reported the number of both travellers and vehicles had decreased significantly this year, for no apparent reason. There had been incidents involving Wood Close Caravan site soon after the travellers arrived which triggered an increase in Police patrols, and this may have reduced further incidents. Richard Rhodes had also visited the Loop Road with Councillors, Police, CCC and SLDC Officers a week after the first arrivals. The Loop road had been cleaned three times during the encampment and was back to normal much sooner than in previous years. The next meeting is 11th November at the Peoples' Hall Sedbergh.

13/76 Financial business:

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

SLDC	£454.86	Street lighting
Casterton PCC	£81.00	Holy Trinity Church clock
		Servicing contribution
Society of Local Council Clerks	£29.40	Subscription (12% of £245)
Duncan Hamlett	£25.00	Internal Audit – honorarium
SLDC	£57.19	Parish Election costs
K M Price	£122.98	Quarterly expenses to 30 th June (includes use of home office)

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The Clerk agreed to remind the Bursar at Casterton School of the £1,000 donation from the school which is ring-fenced for street lighting in the Council's account.

13/77 Planning:

The following application was discussed:

SL/2013/0471 Casterton Golf Course Ltd, Casterton. Single storey monopitch practice range building with associated landscaping.

Approval is recommended, but the Council emphasises that the screening with mature trees should be completed and be entirely adequate.

13/78 Date of next meeting:

Monday 19th August 2013 at Casterton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed:

Dated: