

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 19th August 2013 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Enid Hastings (Chairman), Ken Humphris, and Claire Wildsmith, County and District Councillor Nick Cotton, District Councillor Evelyn Westwood, 10 members of the public and the Clerk Mr K M Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bye and May Mackie and District Councillor Ian Mcpherson.

13/79 Public participation:

A number of residents spoke concerning agenda item 11 'Hedge cutting responsibilities'. In response to complaints about tyres being punctured on roads that were not swept after hedge cutting, the Council had last year ascertained that it is the landowner's responsibility to ensure that the roads are left clear after hedge cutting. The Chairman explained that any action the Council might take when the matter is discussed is only a follow-up to last year's discussions.

13/80 Requests for Dispensations: None.

13/81 Declarations of Interest:

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

13/82 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2013, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

13/83 County and District matters:

- a. Councillor Westwood spoke concerning possible community use of Sedbergh School's facilities, following grants received and Sedbergh Parish Council is looking at ways the public can use these.
- b. Councillor Cotton has requested a list of the three highways priorities for Casterton. The problems of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed are being addressed, for which some funding has been made available.

13/84 Police Report:

The Police Report had been circulated to all Councillors.

13/85 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. The annual appraisal of the Clerk was held recently, with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Clerk was thanked for his hard work and ongoing support. The Council resolved to accept the recommendation that his salary is increased from SCP26 to SCP27 and to include the national recommended 1% increase with effect from 1st April 2013.
- b. A new Electricity North West pole has been replaced on the Village Green and the ground and the damaged wall have now been made good.

- c. The signpost at the crossroads of Wandales and Gateheads Lanes has graffiti, which has been reported, and a request made for it to be cleaned. The same post had the finger posts unscrewed and turned to give the wrong directions – this has been corrected.
- d. Small Barn is reported to have fallen down at High Casterton and still has a cylinder in – seen from the road – dangerous if children go in to investigate. The Police will be contacted.
- e. SLDC are looking for parishes to host a planning meeting. The Planning service is offering a workshop – How to Effectively Engage with the Planning Service – a short presentation from Mark Shipman, Development Management Group Manager. It was resolved to offer Casterton as a possible venue, and invite Barbon and Kirkby Lonsdale Councils.
- f. Sarah Williams, Area Engagement Officer, has contacted the Council with information for Community Grant Opportunities. Councillor Wildsmith has been in touch regarding this.
- g. The Council has had a request from Cumbria Independent Visiting Scheme for volunteers to visit detainees held at Kendal Police Station – the posters will go in the notice boards / news letter
- h. Request for volunteers for the Neighbourhood Care Independence Program – posters will go in notice boards/ newsletter
- i. SLDC Community Governance Review 2013 Stage Three is now available on line, and the 2nd Consultation period ends on 22nd October – the posters will go in notice boards.
- j. SLDC has produced the latest policy-briefing document, which is a roundup of government legislation and other news affecting SLDC. Of interest may be the rural issues including Broadband and Funding for Green Energy.
- k. SLDC has launched the third ‘Power up your Community’ scheme to bid for lower rates of energy from suppliers. Registration is open until 15th October and the auction will take place on 16th October.
- l. There has been a request from Rural Services Network to circulate a petition championed by our local MP at parliament. RSN believes that the government needs to further improve on their settlement for rural local authorities, giving rural areas a fairer slice of the funding cake in the future. ‘Rural Fair Share Campaign’ aims to send a clear message to the Government from all rural areas in England that the current funding system is unfair and rural areas are losing out on essential funding to deliver services to rural communities. This year, the Rural Fair Share Campaign is giving the Council the opportunity to lend a voice to this argument by signing a petition to be championed by our local MP at parliament. This needs to be returned to the Chair of RFSC by 30th September with as many signatures from the community as possible.
- m. The LAP, in taking data from the 2011 census has given an overall profile of the parishes and towns in this LAP. The details for Casterton have been requested but unfortunately individual parish profiles cannot be produced. The Council will be provided with a spreadsheet of all the parish level data used to inform the LAP profile, and it will then be possible to extract out all the Casterton data to help with future planning.
- n. Green Streets Legacy – a date change and venue change was requested by the school and the meeting will now take place on 5th September in the Pavilion.

13/86 Street lighting:

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman have met with David Jones who now is contracted by CCC to replace streetlights for Parish and Town Councils. The following is the present position:

103 pole next to the Pheasant – the BT pole needs to be replaced by the end of September. It was resolved to inform Councillor Peter Thornton of the cost of this and to ask for funding to take the lantern off and put it on a 6m Steel column in same area – the cost will be £795.78 plus VAT.

104 old BT pole housing the Council's lantern. The proposal is to remove the wooden pole and replace with 6m steel column and transfer the lantern – the new pole and transfer will cost £795.78 plus VAT. To take down the existing wooden pole will cost £100.

I07 ENW wooden pole near Church Cottage to be replaced with new wooden pole. ENW must give the Council six months notice of this work and the Council will then have to purchase a 6m steel pole at a cost of approximately £300 to which ENW will transfer the lantern at no cost. If ENW just takes the lantern off the existing pole without informing the Council, they are liable to the full costs and column. The problem is where to put the new pole because of ENW overhead cables.

The proposed new light column opposite Croft House, including road crossing, will cost £5704.47 plus VAT, although there is still £1,000 from the school ring-fenced for this work. More funding is still required. The Council agreed to request removal of overhanging greenery in this area to give more daylight

13/87 Additional grit bin for Langthwaite crossroads:

The cost of a 400 litre green plastic bin will be £172.20 including VAT and delivery. Councillor Nick Cotton has agreed to provide funding for this bin from his CCC budget.

13/88 Hedge cutting responsibilities:

The Council has been contacted by members of the public over a number of years regarding this problem and there have been numerous reports of car owners having punctures caused by hedge clippings. Everyone living in the village has to use the lanes. It was suggested that a working group of Councillors and residents is formed to address this issue and identify all landowners with hedges on the side of our lanes before requesting the collection of clippings which have the potential to cause punctures.

13/89 Community Payback Scheme:

Details of this scheme have been sent to Councillor Nick Cotton regarding help with pulling out the Himalayan Balsam at the Bridges and to Gill Sykes and Ron Bulman, suggesting help with maintenance of the Church grounds. The Council could request help in collecting hedge cuttings from the lanes after the hedges have been trimmed. It was agreed to make further enquiries concerning this scheme and to ask around the village as to what kind of work could be included.

13/90 First World War – then and now – Heritage Lottery Fund:

The War Memorial has been inspected by the stonemason, who suggests that little can be done as names are not centred and the end of the lettering at the corner is wearing away. This means that if the letters are re-carved and highlighted some letters will be missing or damaged and this would look odd. He also did not recommend cleaning as the stone is old.

An option would be to place one or two bronze or cast iron plaques with names on one or both side faces. Councillor Humphris will investigate costs.

To mark the occasion, there could possibly be a service in Church. The Council will need to liaise with the Rector. Councillor Humphris is making further enquiries to establish if other names need to be added. It was decided to ask in the next newsletter if others were known to have lost their lives in armed conflict from Casterton since the Second World War.

13/91 Officer's Reports and updates:

- a. Public Rights of Way. Councillor Wildsmith gave an encouraging report which is appended to these minutes.
- b. Highways. The Chairman reported on behalf of Councillor Bye. Rob Huck of Better Highways has been contacted regarding Wandales Lane, where water had washed out large amount of infill small rocks leaving a large culvert. This has now been inspected and the culvert is to be filled with cement and a sweeper brought to clear road later this week. Confirmation has been requested that the major work planned for this financial year on Wandales Lane to restore the soak away is still going to happen. The Council awaits news on this. Bent Lane is now closed as the road is collapsing and there is a hole in the tarmac. This should be attended to later this week.
- c. Village Hall. The Chairman reported on behalf of Councillor Mackie. The new kitchen has been completed and the painter is awaited. The events committee will have next years' program out by end of August. The new cleaners are very satisfactory.
- d. Broadband. Councillor Humphris said there was no definite information whether Casterton would be included in the High-Speed Broadband area. It was felt that the level of interest in the village should be gauged.
- e. Western Dales bus service. The Chairman reported on behalf of Councillor Mackie. New routes are being planned from Sedbergh to Kirkby Lonsdale to link with routes to Lancaster and Kendal. More drivers and helpers are required. New and existing weekend routes being well used.

13/92 Clerk's Report: None.

13/93 Financial business:

- a. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- b. *It was resolved to pay the following accounts:*

SLDC	£61.55	Outstanding account for street lighting 2012-13
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W E Hastings	£125.00	Honorarium – grasscutting
G Linley	£125.00	Honorarium – grasscutting
Casterton PCC	£318.00	Church clock repairs - donation
K M Price	£41.84	Back salary to 1 st April 2013
Graham Bott	£82.74	Collection and fitting of new notice board

13/94 Planning:

The following application was considered and approval recommended:

SL/2013/0759 Whelprigg White House, Casterton. Extension and addition of lean to conservatory.

13/95 Date of next meeting:

Monday 21st October 2013 at Casterton Village Hall at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Casterton Parish Council Meeting, 19 August 2013

Report on Footpaths

Bridleway 509019/509020 - Laitha Lane

I have now heard from John Dyer regarding our bid for funding for this path under the SLDC New Homes Bonus Locally Important Projects Scheme. He writes that since this is a new initiative it has 'required the establishment of a new robust objective process'. The following steps include a 'panel to consider recommendations' to meet by the end of August, following which the formal approval process will take place by mid-September, the announcements on decisions to be made as soon as possible after that. Regarding our bid for funding under the People's Millions Lottery Fund, I have recently been informed that our proposed scheme has been put on the reserve list. In view of this they require a form to be filled in which has to be in by 11 September. I am in the process of answering their questions.

Footpath 500908 – Ridding Wood

Since our last meeting I have had a meeting with Henry Armitage, land agent for the Underley Estate, to look at the current state of this path which still badly needs a drainage scheme to be put in place to make it more accessible to walkers. Following this meeting it is hoped that he and Tony Burns, Countryside Ranger for Cumbria CC will meet early in September with a view to taking things further.

Stile at end of FP509007

A representative of Cumbria CC has inspected the damage to this stile at the end of the right of way which links Colliers Lane with the A683 near the garage. Despite the Parish Council's request for it to be replaced with a kissing gate which would provide safer and easier access to this path, and would be in keeping with the other stiles on this path, the landowner has requested that the stile remains. It is hoped that the repair will be carried out soon.