

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall, on Monday 21st October 2013 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Enid Hastings (Chairman), John Bye, Ken Humphris, May Mackie and Claire Wildsmith, County and District Councillor Nick Cotton, PCSO Mandy Coleman, Anna Clarke of 'The Westmorland Gazette', 13 members of the public and the Clerk Mr K M Price. Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors Ian McPherson and Evelyn Westwood and Scott Carnochan of Casterton School.

13/96 Public participation:

- a. The Council were congratulated, especially Councillor Wildsmith, by a resident, on being successful in obtaining a grant under the Locally Important Projects Scheme for work to Laitha Lane.
- b. Small bags of wood and nails, claimed to be from the Jubilee Beacon in 2012, have been collected on Brownthwaite by a resident and were presented to the Council, an accusation was made that the site had not been cleared as promised. The chairman confirmed the site had been visited by a Councillor and assessed as promised in previous minutes, the landowner being satisfied with the condition of the site. No further action was required. The resident was asked to remove these bags from in front of the Councillors.
- c. A question was asked as to why the cutting of the Village Green had not been put out to tender. The Chairman replied that the work was done by volunteers, not by an employee or contractor, therefore there was no requirement for tenders. The Council decided that an honorarium should be paid to those who had done this work for the last two years, in recognition of their effort and the use of their equipment and fuel.
- d. With reference to the discussion at previous meetings concerning hedge cutting and removal of the debris, it was claimed that this was not the business of the Parish Council to tell farmers when hedges should be cut. The Chairman agreed and confirmed what had been said previously, that it is the responsibility of the land owners whether it was a field or garden hedge. No meeting had been arranged to date as offered by the council, as only one response had been received to the letter from the Clerk. A meeting can be arranged to discuss the matter if requested.
- e. A resident complained they were unable to access the website and it was not fit for purpose, but had not reported this to either the Clerk or a Councillor. This claim will be investigated but it was noted that this is the first such complaint that has been received and in the last 11 months the site has averaged 600 hits per month.

13/97 Requests for Dispensations: None.

13/98 Declarations of Interest:

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

13/99 Minutes:

The minutes of the meetings held on 19th August 2013 and 10th September 2013, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

13/100 County and District matters:

Councillor Cotton reported that he has arranged to meet with Councillor Bye to look at highway matters in the parish. It is hoped that these will be completed during the forthcoming financial year. Work on Wandales Lane will be started this year.

13/101 Police Report:

PCSO Mandy Coleman said that there has been no reported crime in Casterton. There have been thefts of diesel in the area and two arrests have been made.

13/102 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. The remains of the Small Barn in High Casterton, which has fallen down, are being removed.
- b. Two of the six grit bins have been topped up, but not the others. It is thought they have been 'missed' and will be topped up on the next run in the area. The new grit bin for Langthwaite crossroads should be delivered soon and will be filled with grit. CCC has decided that from this year the grit for new bins must be paid for by the Parish Councils, at a cost of approximately £160 annually.
- c. The Chairman attended a recent CALC meeting when officers were appointed for the following year. David Peters was re elected Chairman. Richard Rhodes, Police Commissioner gave an interesting and informative presentation on his role and his short and long term plans and expectations. The Chairman attended a meeting of the Upper Eden Encampment Strategy Group at Kirkby Stephen, also attended by members of MASCG. The agenda considered ways to improve the experiences of communities surrounding Appleby during the fair.
- d. The Chairman and Councillor Mackie attended the LAP meeting recently. Sophy Stewart was canvassing views, concerns and ideas on future health provision. It was proposed and agreed to continue the Respect Group as a sub committee of the LAP and to reconsider the role of the LAP. Michael Roberts explained how the Community speed watch scheme worked and gained potential support from Peter Thornton's member allowance towards the purchase of a SID for the LAP area.
- e. The Newsletter was delivered to all residents at the beginning of October
- f. There will be a Neighbourhood Forum meeting tomorrow at the Medical Centre, Sedbergh.
- g. Councillor Humphris reported that he had been in touch with a company in Buxton regarding the illegibility of some of the names on the War Memorial and a separate memorial plaque could be provided with these names inscribed, at a cost of around £500-£600. Councillor Humphris agreed to pursue what funding might be available for this.
- h. Councillor Bye said the Remembrance Service will take place on Sunday 10th November, when two wreaths will be laid at the War Memorial. There may be some changes to previous year's timing of this event.
- i. Councillor Humphris suggested the Parish Plan could be looked at again at the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting in the spring.

13/103 Street lighting:

Councillor Bye reported that David Jones will be erecting a new column 103 and lantern on 29th October. The cost will be £795.78 plus VAT. It was resolved that the Council's reserves could be used to pay for this. A second replacement column 107 is likely to cost a further £300 plus VAT.

13/104 Officer's Reports and updates:

- a. Public Rights of Way. Councillor Wildsmith presented a report, which is appended to these minutes.
- b. Highways. Councillor Bye reported that the Highways Authority has been reorganised again, and he will be meeting with Councillor Cotton in order to update the Casterton listings.
- c. Village Hall. Councillor Mackie reported that a coffee morning and display of memorabilia of the village was held on 21st September when residents were invited to view the newly refurbished kitchen. £123 was raised at this event. The Harvest celebrations on 13th October included a Jacob's Join lunch which followed the service and was attended by 16 adults and two children. The children's competition was won by the Lodge children, and Jill Humphris and Anne Mills won the best autumnal photograph. The next function will be 'The Right Wine with the Right Course' presented by Booths on Friday 29th November, tickets £12.
- d. Broadband. Councillor Humphris reported that clearer information is still being sought but registration has been put in place for the Community Build Scheme. It is thought that around 80% of Casterton residents will receive superfast broadband.
- e. Western Dales Bus Service. Councillor Mackie reported that she had attended a meeting on 9th October. The proposed service from Sedbergh to Kirkby Lonsdale has been postponed for the present. Things will improve if a bus can be purchased, but this is likely to cost around £55,000. The AGM is to be held on 9th December at Barbon Village Hall at 7pm.

13/105 Clerk's Report:

A copy of the letter from John and Liz Burke to Casterton Village Projects was read and noted.

13/106 Tripartite Meeting:

The next Tripartite Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 30th October at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall. Agenda items to be included are the possibility of sharing a Parish Lengthsman in the three parishes, the increased cost of grit bin provision and filling, the reorganisation of the Highways Authority, and broadband provision.

13/107 Meeting dates for 2014:

The following dates for meetings during 2014 were provisionally agreed:

20th January

17th March

14th April – Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting

12th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting
16th June
21st July
18th August
6th October
17th November

13/108 Community Trust:

(The business of the Council was adjourned for a short period to allow some public participation)

All residents of Casterton will be invited to a Parish Assembly Meeting to be held, either at Casterton Village Hall or at the gym at Casterton School, on Friday 15th November 2013 to discuss the future management of the Green Streets legacy. The Parish Council believes the establishment of a Trust to manage the funds is the way forward, having taken extensive legal advice and a draft document can be tabled at that meeting.

13/109 Finance:

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

CALC	£12.50	5 copies of 'The Good Councillor's Guide'
BDO	£120.00	External Audit
Burneside PC	£11.14	Photocopies (one year)
Casterton Village Hall	£15.00	Hire of hall
Ian Johnson	£21.00	Newsletter
Printing Plus	£52.62	Newsletter
May Mackie	£13.00	Welcome Packs
K M Price	£138.16	Quarterly expenses to 30 th September (includes use of home office)

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The report from the External Auditor (BDO) on the Council's accounts for 2012-13 was received. There were no outstanding issues to be brought to the Council's attention and the Council recorded its thanks to the Clerk for dealing with the accounts so meticulously.

d. It was resolved that the Council will meet the initial cost of any Trust or other documents required for 13/108 above.

13/110 Planning: None.

13/111 Date of next meeting:

Monday 18th November 2013 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Casterton Parish Council Meeting, 21 October 2013

Report on Footpaths

Bridleway 509019/509020 - Laitha Lane

SLDC New Homes Bonus Locally Important Projects Scheme. I am very pleased to report that our bid for funding for the Laitha Lane Improvement Project has been successful and we have been awarded the sum of £11, 526, which is 50% of the total cost on the understanding that Cumbria County Council will bankroll the project and fund the remainder. I believe that our successful bid was reported in the *Westmorland Gazette* before we had official confirmation via our Parish Clerk. The grant is made with certain conditions which concern responsibility for maintenance and possible landownership issues. Chris Graham of the Countryside Access Team has responded positively to these issues in a recent email.

I have been informed that , although it is not possible to give an accurate start date, it is envisaged that some of the clearance will begin in December with the main surfacing through January and February, weather permitting.

I shall maintain contact with the Countryside Access Team and report back on progress with the project at the next Parish Council Meeting.

People's Millions Lottery Fund

In view of this successful bid we have withdrawn from this possible source of funding