

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 17th November 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Enid Hastings (Chairman), John Bye, Ken Humphris and May Mackie, Sgt Paul Mellard, five members of the public and the Clerk Mr K M Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Claire Wildsmith, County and District Councillor Nick Cotton, District Councillors Kevin Lancaster and Evelyn Westwood and PCSO Danielle Ayers.

14/107 Public participation: None.

14/108 Requests for Dispensations: None.

14/109 Declarations of Interest:

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

14/110 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2014, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

14/111 Police Report:

The Chairman welcomed Sgt Paul Mellard to his first meeting at Casterton. Sgt Mellard said there had been a theft of a plant pot containing compost and 12 tulip bulbs, taken from a front garden in Casterton. There had been a number of break ins and thefts recently in the rural area, residents are reminded to be vigilant and take extra care in locking and securing all premises, vehicles and out buildings. Anything of any value should be kept out of sight and any suspicious people or activity reported.

There had been reports of a large gathering held at Barbon on the previous Saturday night but no one in Casterton seemed to have been affected by it.

The difficulty of obtaining evidence of off-road motorcyclists using bridleways was highlighted, as vehicle registration details are required.

14/112 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. Councillors had an informal visit to Casterton School to see the facilities and meet staff and pupils on Thursday 6th November.
- b. The next LAP meeting will be held at Barbon Village Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 18th November. The next CALC meeting is Thursday 27th November 7pm at Gilpin Bridge Inn, Levens.
- c. The War Memorial base and wall was rebuilt, repaired and pointed before the Remembrance there on 9th November. The builder suggested the stone could be cleaned of lichen with a soft brush and Jeyes Fluid - this may be tried on a small-unseen area before trying on the rest of the stone. The Remembrance Service in church and the social time afterwards with refreshments in the Village Hall was well attended.

The exhibitions in Church and the Hall were very interesting and informative and greatly appreciated by everyone who attended. Our thanks to Councillor May Mackie for organising and managing this.

d. The Council's application to Casterton Community Trust for funding towards the cost of refurbishing the seat on the Village Grange was successful with a grant of £500 towards the total costs.

e. A request has been made for an informal meeting with Mr and Mrs Lamb of Casterton Grange. The Clerk will make contact with them again.

Councillor Mackie reported that the small exhibition along with biographies of those who returned from World War 1 was set up in the Church by Chris Benson and in the Village Hall by May Mackie and Jean Hamlett. The special thanks of the Council are recorded to Jean Hamlett for all the research she conducted into the families and all the material collected will now be submitted to the Record Office in Kendal. It is hoped that by 2018 further research will have been completed.

Councillor Bye reported on his recent attendance at a meeting for stakeholders for the Western Dales bus service. He gave details of the Dent-Kendal service, which operates five times each Saturday by volunteer drivers. Councillor Bye indicated his willingness to continue as the Council's Representative on this body.

14/113 Officers Reports:

a. Public Rights of Way. Councillor Wildsmith had sent a report by email and the Clerk read this. It will now be appended to the minutes in the file.

b. Highways. Councillor Bye gave his report, which will also be appended to the minutes in the file. Sgt. Mellard said the Police would be willing to loan the Council a Speed Indicator Device (SID) and would discuss the siting and arrangements for this.

c. Village Hall. Councillor Mackie reported that the upgrading of the Village Hall is now complete. A grant towards the purchase of blinds has been awarded from Casterton Community Trust. The next function is 'Wines and Food' to be presented by Glynn of Booths on Friday 5th December.

d. Broadband. Councillor Humphris explained the position as of November 2014. After much pressure from the Parish Council, a meeting was eventually convened with BT and Connecting Cumbria at the end of October 2014, when a much clearer picture emerged.

All Casterton telephones are 'exchange only' lines, which means they go directly to the exchange without passing through an intermediate 'cabinet' - the dark green metal boxes that are sometimes seen on the roadside. BT have just installed Casterton's first cabinet on the grass verge of the A683 opposite Toll Bar Cottage, near to the Golf Clubhouse, and have undertaken a 'copper re-arrangement' to make all of the lines pass through this cabinet. The next stage is to install a second 'fibre cabinet' close to the first, which will be connected back to the Kirkby Lonsdale exchange by fibre cable, and this is planned for January 2015. The final stage is then to connect the two cabinets.

BT have completed their detailed survey of the village and estimate that the new service should go live in March 2015 - ahead of schedule - at which point most of the village will be able to receive an improved service. Individual ISPs will no doubt be in touch with their customers at this point to try and sign them up for an improved package.

The maximum Internet speed any property can achieve will be inversely proportional to its distance from the fibre cabinet - the nearer the faster - but BT expect the majority to achieve the 24Mbps standard. This compares with a speed in the range 2-10Mbps which most achieve at the moment.

An update is expected early in 2015, when information about the availability of superfast broadband *on a postcode basis* should be available. There will also be guidance on how to check the maximum speed available to an individual household.

14/114 Signs for lanes in Casterton:

None of the lanes in Casterton have name signs on them. There is mixed feeling among residents about this, but difficulties have been experienced with satnavs not taking drivers to the property they are looking for, as the same postcodes often cover a wide area.

It was agreed, initially, to ask Joanne Parker of CCC Highways if one or two signs could be funded, at Chapel house Lane and at Laitha Lane.

It was also agreed to investigate the possibility of having containers with maps available in them to direct walkers to use Laitha Lane to get to Kirkby Lonsdale. Possible sites could be at the Golf Course, Church, Caravan site, Pheasant Inn, and the notice board at Devil's Bridge. The Chairman will ask CCC Highways if the Council would be allowed to do this and also to obtain estimates for the cost of any associated signage and the printing of leaflets, etc. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

14/115 Casterton Swimming Club:

The use of Casterton School's swimming pool by Casterton residents has been agreed in principle, on Mondays, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30 to 10.30am. This will cost £50 per hour, including a lifesaver, which is required. There would also have to be a protocol in place, as at Sedbergh. The main concern would be as to whether there would be sufficient interest from Casterton residents to go ahead with this. It was agreed to advertise the possibility in AKL, on the website, and in the next Parish Newsletter, asking who would be interested.

14/116 Clerk's Report:

a. PCSO Mandy Coleman had replied to the Council's enquiry (minute 14/96 refers) regarding off-road motorcyclists using the recently renovated Laitha Lane. The log had come in at 1154 hours on 29th September by a lady from Howgill, stating that there were four riders seen. It does not state on the log at what time she actually saw them.

- b. Planning training. There had been some confusion regarding the arrangements for this and the Council has now been informed that such an event is not to be held in Casterton, but that Councillors will be welcome to attend one at Kirkby Lonsdale, yet to be arranged. As CALC had very recently intimated that they would be arranging such training in the spring, it was agreed to await those arrangements instead.
- c. The Annual Parish Council Meeting date for 2015 has been changed and is now to be held on Wednesday 20th May 2015.
- d. The Clerk agreed to include an item 'Future agenda items' at the end of each agenda. Councillor Humphris asked if 'Standing Orders' could be on a future agenda, in order to update them. The Clerk understands that new Standing Orders are due to be published shortly and will monitor the situation.

14/117 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Casterton Village Hall	£15.00	Hire of hall
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Graham Bott	£368.57	War Memorial renovation
TRBL Poppy Appeal	£25.00	Remembrance wreath, including donation
Enid Hastings	£12.60	Compost for Village Green
Enid Hastings	£57.00	Remembrance Day - events
Ken Humphris	£36.00	Website domain subscription - reimbursement

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The Clerk reported that Burneside Parish Council had paid for the renewal of his computer equipment recently and were asking the other Councils where he is Clerk to contribute on a pro-rata basis. This was agreed in principle and will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Casterton 's contribution will be £54.27 and is well within the admin budget.

14/118 Planning:

a. The following applications were considered:

SL/2014/1079 Field Edge, Casterton. Erection of replacement dwelling and change of use of land to extend garden curtilage. No objection, but the Council is concerned about the volume and type of traffic during construction and asks that the site is accessed from Casterton Church and, because of the narrowness of the lane, smaller wheelbase vehicles should be used. There is also concern about the parking of vehicles during construction for the same reasons. The Council asks that the dry stonewall should be reinstated after all work is completed.

SL/2014/0960 Bees Nest Farm, Casterton. Extension to agricultural building. No objection, but the Council asks that some screening should be provided.

b. The following decisions, notified to the Council by the Planning Authority, were noted:

SL/2014/0818 Casterton Old Hall, Casterton. Removal of linking building and subsequent alterations. Granted.

SL/2014/0786 Daleside Welding, Laneside Works, Wandales Lane, Casterton. Single storey extension to existing industrial unit. Granted.

SL/2014/0631 Field to the rear of the Grange, adjacent to A683 Casterton. Livestock building. Granted.

14/119 Winter Meetings:

It was resolved to hold the Council meetings scheduled for January, February and March 2015 during the afternoons, as a trial, commencing at 2pm.

14/120 Date of next meeting:

Monday 5th January 2015 at Casterton Village Hall at 2pm. This will be the Precept Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed:

Dated: