

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Enid Hastings, John Bye, Ken Humphris, Jean Lobley, and Claire Wildsmith, four members of the public and the Clerk Mr K M Price. Apologies for absence were received from County and District Councillor Nick Cotton, District Councillors Kevin Lancaster and Mel Mackie, and PCSO Mandy Coleman.

60/15 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Enid Hastings was elected Chairman for 2015-16. She then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman and welcomed Councillor Lobley to the Council.

All Councillors then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

61/15 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

Councillor John Bye was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2015-16

62/15 Public participation:

The Council was congratulated on entering its new term of office.

63/15 Requests for Dispensations: None.

64/15 Declarations of Interest:

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

65/15 Appointments of Representatives:

The following were appointed:

- a. Public Rights of Way Officer – Councillor Wildsmith
- b. CALC – Councillor Humphris
- c. Village Hall – Councillor Lobley
- d. Better Highways – Councillor Bye
- e. LAP – Councillor Hastings
- f. Travelling and settled community – Councillor Hastings
- g. Website – Councillor Humphris
- h. Broadband – Councillor Humphris
- i. Western Dales Bus Service – Councillor Bye
- j. Newsletter – Councillor Humphris
- k. Casterton Community Trust - Councillor Humphris

66/15 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2015, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

67/15 County and District matters:

It was agreed to ask County and District Councillors to submit a brief report if they cannot be present.

68/15 Police Report:

The Clerk read the Police Report from PCSO Mandy Coleman. There had only been one crime of note in the Casterton area, when a Land Rover was stolen from Kirkby Motors.

69/15 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. The school has confirmed the availability of the swimming pool from 8.30am to 9.30am on Wednesday mornings during term time, commencing in September. The regular lifesaver is unavailable on Wednesdays, so an alternative is being sought. The Pool Operating Safety Procedure is being reviewed at both Sedbergh and Casterton and must be in place before the swimming club starts.
- b. The dog fouling on the lane from the Church has been reduced following visits from enforcement officers and the erection of Police notices.
- c. The last Newsletter was distributed after the Election.
- d. Casterton Parish Council Information will be updated and displayed as before.
- e. The new Environmental Partnership Fund for 2014/15 is now available and applications invited.

- f. The Chairman attended the LAP meeting on Tuesday 19th May, when issues discussed included:
 - i. Improving regular contact with Better Highways Area Steward and a request should be made to CCC for information of the highways schedule when 'major' projects are planned.
 - ii. The difference in the way Parish and Town Councils in this LAP are charged for electricity for street lighting. It was agreed to compile data from each Council and submit to CCC with a request for a presentation to LAP asap.
 - iii. Progress of Broadband – Connecting Cumbria now has four cabinets in both Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh and three more planned for each town. Connection is now estimated for late summer. There is an open meeting aimed at building skills and awareness of the benefits of superfast broadband for business, home use and services on 19th June from 11.30am to 6.00pm in the Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale. It is necessary to register for the interactive sessions, which are at 12.30pm, 3pm and 5pm. at info@connectingcumbria.org.uk

70/15 Officer's Reports:

- a. **Public Rights of Way.** Councillor Wildsmith reported as follows:

Bridleway 509019/509020 – Laitha Lane. Communication is still on going regarding various issues.

Footpaths 500908 and 509009 – Ridding Wood. The fallen tree in Ridding Wood has been reported to Davis & Bowring and they have agreed to remove it.

Underley Woodland Plans. Marcus Wright has been contacted with regard to clarification of these plans and will meet with Council representatives at a mutually convenient date to be arranged.

b. Highways. Councillor Bye reported that a master plan is to be drawn up, in order to address the various highways issues in the parish.

c. Village Hall. Councillor Hastings reported that the plant sale and coffee morning on 25th April was financially and socially successful, although the weather was poor and local attendance was down. The AGM is tomorrow evening at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

d. Broadband. Nothing to report at present.

e. Western Dales bus service. Councillor Bye reported that the next meeting is not until June. A new bus has been ordered at a cost of around £83,000.

71/15 Tripartite Meetings:

The Council believes that the Tripartite Meetings of Barbon and Casterton Parish Councils, and Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council should only be held on an 'as needed' basis in future. The Clerk will inform the other Councils of this.

72/15 Street lighting:

Grant funding has now been obtained and the Chairman and Councillor Bye will progress discussions with Jones Electrical and Electricity North West.

73/15 Village maintenance:

There had been no response to the advertisements for volunteers to cut the Village Green, and verges etc. Alex Mazerk will share the work with Graham Linley in future and it was agreed Bill Hastings and Graham Linley should receive their £125.00 honorarium now. The thanks of the Council to Bill Hastings for his work during the past year was recorded

74/15 Ash dieback:

Councillor Humphris agreed to identify where the Ash trees are situated in the parish, especially any with branches overhanging the lanes.

75/15 Archiving of minutes:

The Clerk is currently collating the minutes from 2002 up to the time he became Clerk. Once this work is complete, it was resolved that these minutes be deposited in the County Record Office in Kendal, and thereafter on a four yearly basis to reflect each council's term of office

76/15 Minutes and Reports of meetings:

It was agreed that the Clerk would condense the minutes as much as possible and avoid including details, which might not be necessary.

77/15 Appleby Horse Fair:

Boulders are now in situ and posts have been erected on verges. There have been some early visitors to the area but all have moved on. The drop -in centre dates are on all notice boards and websites. Residents are reminded to call 101 (or 999 if it is an emergency) if they have any concerns during the period of the Appleby Horse Fair.

78/15 Clerk's Report: None.

79/15 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Bill Hastings	£125.00	Honorarium for village maintenance
Graham Linley	£125.00	Honorarium for village maintenance
Zurich Municipal	£401.86	Insurance premium
CALC	£130.00	Subscription
SLDC	£436.80	Litter bin emptying
Ian Johnson	£84.00	Newsletter printing
K M Price	£119.36	Quarterly expenses to 31st March Including use of home office (and 'Non-Consolidated' payment agreed as part of Pay Award.

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

c. The provisional accounts for 2014-15 were received and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign Parts 1 and 2 of the Annual Return.

80/15 Planning:

The following comments, submitted to the Planning Authority on the Clerk's delegated authority since the last meeting, were noted:

SL/2015/0236 Site Manager's Accommodation, Woodclose Caravan Park.
Alterations and extension to incorporate unused first floor accommodation into existing ground floor flat No objections.

SL/2015/0319 Old School, Casterton. Internal alterations and change of use of school accommodation and attached school staff residential accommodation to unrestricted residential accommodation. No objections.

SL/2015/0261 Casterton School, Casterton. Change of use of field to sports pitches. No objections.

SL/2015/0290 and 0291 - Casterton Old Hall - Erection of double garage and provision of driveway. Casterton Old Hall, a Grade 2 building, is a distinguished, well-preserved structure, which sits well within its rather small plot on the edge of the school "campus". The Council believes that erecting the proposed garage within its curtilage would seriously detract from the setting of Old Hall. Refusal recommended.

SL/2015/0382 - Land at Norwood Fields, High Casterton - Outline Application for a dwelling and installation of sewage treatment plant.

The application refers to a site 'that has been previously developed'. The concrete base existing in the field was not for a barn or a dwelling, but for a large timber shed, which eventually collapsed. An agricultural shed presents a very different visual impact to that of a dwelling with all the appurtenances of human habitation.

This application purports to be "rounding off" - defined as 'the completion of an incomplete group of buildings on land which is already partly developed in such a way that it will...define the boundaries of the group'. Crucially, such a development should not'leave undeveloped areas which could open up pressure for future development'.

The Council believes the application fails on both these counts. Norwood Fields is the last dwelling in that direction in the hamlet of High Casterton, and is bounded on its southern edge by a wall. The field directly over this wall is where the dwelling is proposed, and the drive/hard-standing is in an adjacent field, which borders the highway and is separated from the first field by another stonewall. This cannot be rounding off.

If this proposal was accepted it is hard to imagine what justification there could be for refusing permission for a further dwelling(s) in the remainder of the field. This fails the second criterion.

The applicant has recently had permission for a barn conversion on his property at the other end of the village. Refusal recommended.

81/15 Future agenda items:

- a. Freedom of Information requests.
- b. SLDC Environmental Partnership Grant application.

82/15 Date of next meeting:

Monday 6th July 2015 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed:

Dated: