

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 6th July 2015, at 7.30pm.

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

83/15 Public participation: None.

84/15 Requests for Dispensations: None.

85/15 Declarations of Interest:

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

86/15 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2015, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

87/15 County and District matters:

Councillor Mackie said that there would be changes to the bin collection arrangements in South Lakeland in September and a briefing note will be issued shortly. No report was submitted from our County Councillor.

88/15 Police Report:

The Clerk read the Police Report. There had been no logs of note in the Casterton area and no recorded crimes, the report mainly detailing recent activity in Kirkby Lonsdale.

89/15 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. The school is to review their timetable for the Swimming Club to ensure there is a lifeguard available. The club plans to start in September.
- b. Open reach has still not filled the excavation at the base of the BT pole next to Ghyll Cottage (work done early March). Further to more telephone calls today an engineer will be sent to inspect in the next 48 hours.
- c. There is an SLDC meeting for Councillors on Data Protection and Freedom of Information training in the Georgian Room at Kendal Town Hall on 31st July from 10 to 11.30am. The Clerk agreed to book the Chairman and Councillor Humphris in for this event.
- d. The next LAP meeting is on Monday 14th September at Casterton.
- e. An email has been received from NALC, regarding the 'Fly a Flag' for the Commonwealth and it was agreed to make this an agenda item for the next meeting. .

90/15 Officer's Reports:

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

Bridleway 509019/509020 – Laitha Lane

The lane was walked at the weekend and nettles on the verges are a serious problem on the section of the path beyond the Golf Club and past the finger post. The section leading to Woodclose Caravan Park is not affected. Last year CCC had strimmed the nettles before the opening of the lane, but this was as a favour. The Clerk agreed to contact the Caravan Park, as last year they had indicated they would be prepared to provide either financial or practical help in maintaining the lane. It was also agreed to contact the Golf Club and ask if they would give some practical help in strimming the nettles. It was noted how well used the path is by both locals and visitors alike.

The 'NO RIGHT OF WAY' signs to discourage trail bike riding promised (in an email dated 27th May) from CCC were to be erected at the end of June, but have so far not materialised.

The following issues are still outstanding despite emails requesting that they be attended to:

- i. A new stile to replace the damaged one where footpath 509020 joins Laitha Lane. Since this was noted it has been reported that the ladder stile at the other end of this footpath where it leads towards the caravan site is also damaged.
- ii. A scheme to deal with the problems of mud at the High Casterton end of the lane.
- iii. A replacement for the footpath sign on which Chapel House is wrongly spelled.

Other outstanding issues in the village

iv. The stile near Casterton Garage where footpath 509007 joins the A683 has been broken since July 2013.

v. The vandalised footpath sign on Bull Pot Road where it crosses Fell Foot Road has again been brought to the Council's attention. CCC was notified of this in October 2014 but nothing has been done.

b. Highways. Councillor Bye reported that a master plan has been drawn up and this identifies that all the lanes in the parish are in need of re-surfacing. This plan to be considered in the Financial Budget 2016-17 has been submitted to CCC Highways. A smaller list of necessary repairs is also going to be sent in.

The SLDC programme of works for 2012 (in 2013/14 financial budget footway scheme) was moved to 2015/16 plan for re-surfacing of part of Smithy Howe pavement costed at £15,000. Peter Hosking of CCC Highways was contacted and asked to consider more urgent repairs in the village as priority.

The Clerk agreed to write to Highways requesting this money is spent in Casterton and doesn't disappear in the 'pot', also to request a list of all major highways improvements planned for 2015/16 in SLDC area

At the LAP meeting it was requested that all Parish and Town Councils should receive notification of when highways work is to commence and at what cost – to date only the list of 'footways scheme' has been received

The Council felt that the presence of the County Councillor at the meetings would be helpful, as he could explain the system.

c. Village Hall. Councillor Lobley reported that the new sign for the hall is now in place. This was purchased with help from Casterton Community Trust and the Hall Committee funded the cost of delivery and installation. The AGM was held on 21st May, when the officers were re-elected. It was noted that new committee members are urgently required, as at least four of the present committee wish to stand down at the 2016 AGM. Younger members and families would be particularly welcome. Suggestions for the 2015/16 programme are now required. The next meeting will be on 14th October.

d. Broadband. Councillor Humphris reported that BT is doing all it can to get as many cabinets across Cumbria live by the end of September, including the Casterton one. However, there is still a lot to do and Connecting Cumbria believes there is some risk to Casterton being connected by then. The Council is chasing as hard as possible to get further information, but with little success to date.

e. Western Dales bus service. Councillor Bye had attended the last meeting on 17th June. He reported that the Saturday service from Dent to Kendal, via Sedbergh, had been improved and the new bus was on order at a cost of around £83,000. There is also a service to Hawes on Tuesdays. The service relies on volunteer drivers and more are required to come forward.

91/15 Freedom of Information Requests:

The Publication Scheme put in place by the Council in 2009 was briefly reviewed. A working party will be set up to go through the document more carefully and report back to the next meeting so that it might be fully revised.

92/15 SLDC Environmental Partnership Grant:

This year's funding from SLDC Environmental Partnership is now available. Discussion took place on the possibility of installing further street signs on the lanes around Casterton. Some Councillors felt that there ought to be a mandate for this from the residents. District Councillor Mackie suggested it might be worth discovering if there was a statutory duty for signs to be provided by SLDC. It was agreed that the Clerk will enquire about this and in the meantime the idea of further signs will be floated in the next newsletter, in order to assess the feelings of residents.

93/15 Appleby Horse Fair:

The Chairman said there had been no meeting of the Respect Group yet, but that the signs were that numbers this year were down and that there had not been as many problems as in previous years. It was noted, however, that some of the travellers arrived early and the loop road was flooded with travellers on the Bank Holiday weekend.

94/15 Underley Woodland Management Scheme:

Councillors had a meeting with the senior forest manager from Tilhill Forestry who is to manage this scheme over a 10-year period. It was agreed the Council will be kept informed of progress and due notice given when work will effect PROW and footpaths. The tree species that have been agreed with the Forestry Commission when restocking the areas in Casterton were discussed and accepted.

95/15 Welcome pack for new residents in Casterton:

Councillors Lobley and Wildsmith agreed to update the information required and to bring a draft to the next meeting.

96/15 Street lights:

Councillors held a site visit with Jones Lighting and agreed improvements to be done to each light. On receipt of a final estimate (which should be very near the original one) the Clerk will confirm the job in writing to the contractor. The Council has asked for this work to be completed in the summer months before the school term begins in September.

97/15 Clerk's Report:

A message had been received from Councillor Cotton regarding a lady who wishes to sell hot doughnuts from a tow away van on the Casterton side of Devils Bridge. The Council has no jurisdiction in this situation and the Clerk agreed to contact the lady to explain this.

98/15 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

SLDC	£452.50	Street lighting
K M Price	£162.31	Quarterly expenses to 30th June (Including use of home office)
K M Price	£157.71	Quarterly holiday pay, including back
Duncan Hamlett	£25.00	Honorarium - Internal Audit
Graham Bott	£577.00	Seat renovation - Village Green
HMRC	£193.40	PAYE
Society of Local Council Clerks	£33.00	Subscription (11% of £300)

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

- c. The report from the Internal Auditor was received with thanks. There were no issues raised which required the Council's attention.
- d. The effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit was reviewed and the Council considers the present arrangement to be perfectly adequate for the Council's requirements.
- e. In response to a question from the External Auditor regarding the Assets Register, the Register was updated, with some items being deleted and others added. The Clerk will submit the new Register to the auditor.

99/15 Planning:

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

SL/2015/0290 and 0291 - Casterton Old Hall - Erection of double garage and provision of driveway. Granted.

SL/2015/0261 Casterton School, Casterton. Change of use of field to sports pitches. Granted.

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

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. Granted.

SL/2015/0236 Site Manager's Accommodation, Woodclose Caravan Park. Alterations and extension to incorporate unused first floor accommodation into existing ground floor flat. Granted.

100/15 Future agenda items:

Confirmation of winter meeting times October to March

101/15 Date of next meeting:

Monday 7th September 2015 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed:

Dated: