

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 18th January 2016, at 2pm.

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

The Chairman welcomed Alex Dawson and Tony Stubbs, Directors of the company Eight Property Ltd who presented the plans, gave full details and explained what they believe to be the key aspects of the proposed development on the lower Casterton Sedbergh School site. Both Councillors and members of the public asked a number of questions.

16/1 Public participation:

- a. The attention of the Council was drawn to the condition of Wandales Lane beyond Gowrey, although this is in Lancashire. The Clerk will contact LCC Highways.
- b. A question was asked regarding the route of the cycleway referred to at the last meeting. Councillor Humphris confirmed this is available on the Internet. Councillor Cotton had replied to the enquiry (minute 15/15 refers - 'Lakes and Dales Loop') and said it was expected the new, permanent, signs will be going up in the spring. He assumed that CCC Highways had granted permission for them.

16/2 Requests for Dispensations: None.

16/3 Declarations of Interest:

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

16/4 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2015, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, with an amendment in minute 148/15b...'whether' should read 'when'.

16/5 County and District matters:

Both Councillor Lancaster and Councillor Mackie spoke of the dreadful condition of the roads due to the recent flooding and that it would be a long time before repairs were completed. there is a need to identify damage to drains, potholes and road surfaces and for these to be reported as storm damage, in order to hopefully secure funding for them.

16/6 Police Report:

The Clerk read the Police Report. There were no logs of note for Casterton. Although there were numerous flooding logs in the area, the Police worked closely with CCC Highways to resolve these as soon as possible. Some seasonal crime prevention advice was also given in the report.

16/7 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. After the completion of the extensive work on Laitha Lane, SLDC & CCC Highways were consulted and advice sought regarding placing a sign on Laitha Lane. The Council was told existing residents should be contacted and consulted as well as the owner of the wall where the sign was to be placed, and no further contact was required with CCC if the sign was wall mounted. These actions were completed. Both SLDC and CCC Highways were contacted after the sign had been placed and following an inspection – no further action was required.
- b. A letter has been received from NALC regarding HM The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations on 21st April, inviting the Council to take part by lighting a beacon on that evening and on Sunday 5th June organising a street party in the village along with other parties being held throughout the UK. This was discussed and all agreed a 'street party' should be organised. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- c. Dog fouling on the lane frequently used by the Casterton School children between Church Cottage and the Church has escalated again. The School maintenance department has already cleared some and the Council has been asked to take some action to resolve this problem. It was agreed to contact the Police and also request notices to be put on the lane.
- d. Councillor Humphris informed the Council that he has been appointed for a three-year term to serve as a member of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, which was established by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in October 2002 as a statutory advisory body, following the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000. The Forum's role is to provide advice on improving access within the National Park. As such, it advises the Authority on the right of Open Access to the countryside and plays an important role in advising more generally on matters of recreation and access across all the footpaths, bridleways and byways in the National Park.
- e. Councillor Humphris had attended the CALC meeting on 26th November, when matters discussed had included a proposal for devolution between Central Government and Cumbria, which the Cumbria Leader's Board and the Local Enterprise Partnership have been working on during the summer. The government will only consider a deal like this for Cumbria if a Combined Authority is set up with an elected Mayor for the whole of Cumbria, which seemed to be an unnecessary extra tier of government. The next meeting is on 4th February at Gilpin Bridge.

16/8 Officer's Reports:

- a. Public Rights of Way. Councillor Wildsmith reported that the bridge over Casterton Beck FP 509008 has collapsed. This has been reported to Underley Estates who own it and CCC will provide funding for the repair.
- b. Highways. Councillor Hastings said that Joanne Parker has reported that there is limited funding 2016/17 for work on all parish lanes and only the those with the markings SD 2016 will be done this year, ruling out all lanes in High Casterton from Colliers cross roads. Potholes in all the lanes are now much worse due to flooding and require immediate repair. A report will be sent to CCC Highways with specific details.

- c. Village Hall. Councillor Lobley reported that just under £500 had been raised from the 'Festive food and Entertainment' event held on 4th December, attended by 48 people. There is a meeting of the committee this evening and the next event on Friday 29th January is 'Journey through Jordon' with traditional three-course supper and a digital talk

16/9 Parish Plan:

There is a training session in Ambleside on 19th January, when Councillors and volunteers from the parish are welcome to attend. The first meeting of the working group is to be held on 27th January at 7pm at the Village Hall, when all attending should have made a point of reading the previous Parish Plan.

16/10 Street lights:

Following a tremendous amount of work, including planning and raising the funds, not to mention the cutting back of undergrowth at Croft House, the work installing the new lights was about to begin when it was stopped by CCC Highways. There has been no response to emails sent by both the Chairman and Clerk and an answer is still awaited.

16/11 Finance:

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

HMRC	£231.60	PAYE (noted)
K M Price	£129.12	Quarterly expenses to 31st December Including use of home office
K M Price	£157.71	Quarterly holiday pay (net)

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. The Factsheet - Procurement of Audit for Smaller Authorities, having been circulated, was considered and it was resolved not to opt out of any arrangements for future external audit that might be put in place.
- d. The Clerk reported on recent correspondence from the Pensions Regulator. He asked the Council to record his wish to opt out of any pension arrangement, bearing in mind his salary level and age. This was resolved.
- e. The Clerk presented the Budget Report and, after discussion, it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon South Lakeland District Council in the sum of £9, 653.00 (nine thousand six hundred and fifty three pounds) for the financial year 2016-17.

16/12 Planning:

- a. *The following comments had been submitted to the Planning Authority since the last meeting, on the Clerk's delegated authority and these were confirmed:*

SL/2015/1080 Field Edge, Casterton. Creation of new field access and erection of detached tractor and implement store. Refusal recommended, for the following reasons: *(this has subsequently been refused)*

- i. Width of lane is very narrow where gate is proposed.
- ii. Splay and size of proposed field gate is excessive for a field gate and the structure of the new gateway is not in keeping with a field gateway on a narrow rural lane, more like the entrance to a residential driveway.

SL/2015/1115 Gowrey Farm, Wandales Lane, Casterton. Two extensions to existing industrial unit. No objection. *(this has subsequently been granted)*

- b. It was resolved to raise no objections to the proposed upgrade to the telecommunications radio base station installation at Wood Close Caravan Park.
- c. *The following applications had been received too late for inclusion on the agenda and it was resolved that the Clerk be requested to respond on his delegated authority:*

SL/2016/0016 Casterton Lower School (Bronte House, Crookenden House and Garner House) Casterton Conversion of former boarding school to provide 17 additional dwellings (Total of 20)

SL/2015/1185 Agricultural buildings on land adjacent to Devils Bridge Kirkby Lonsdale. Conversion and extension of agricultural buildings into two dwellings.

16/13 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- a. Updates of any relevant documents - Clerk to deal with.
- b. Parish Council policy for pre-application meetings.
- c. Celebrations in June of Queen's 90th Birthday

16/14 Date of next meeting:

Monday 15th February 2016 at 2pm at Casterton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm.

Signed:

Dated:

