

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 23rd May 2016 at 7.30pm.

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

16/31 Election of Chairman:

Councillor Enid Hastings was elected Chairman for 2016-17. She then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

16/32 Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Ken Humphris was appointed Vice-Chairman for 2016-17. The Chairman thanked Councillor Bye for his work as Vice-Chairman for several years.

16/33 Appointment of Representatives:

The following were appointed:

- a. Public Rights of Way Officer - Claire Wildsmith (as a non-Councillor)
- b. CALC - Councillor Humphris.
- c. Village Hall - Councillor Lobley
- d. Better Highways - Councillors Bye and Hastings
- e. LAP - Councillor Hastings
- f. Travelling and settled community - Councillor Hastings
- g. Website - Councillor Humphris
- h. Newsletter - Councillor Humphris until a volunteer is found.

16/34 Public participation: None.

16/35 Requests for Dispensations: None.

16/36 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Hastings declared an interest in planning applications SL/2016/0408 and SL/2016/0401 Bee Nest Farm.

16/37 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2016, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after a small amendment had been made.

16/38 Casual Vacancy:

The Clerk reported that Councillor Wildsmith is resigning from the Council, immediately following this meeting. A Casual Vacancy will therefore be declared and notices displayed on the notice boards and website. SLDC will also be notified.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Wildsmith for her work over the past few years and, in particular, for her meticulous interest in the Public Rights of Way in the parish (she will be continuing this work on behalf of the Council). A presentation was then made to her.

16/39 County and District matters:

Councillor Mackie said that Councillor Peter Thornton has stood down as Leader of SLDC and his successor is Councillor Giles Archibald.

16/40 Police Report:

The Clerk read the Police Report. There had been two logs of note for the Casterton area, one was a civil dispute and the other one of anti-social behaviour. It was pointed out that parking on pavements, whereby no access is allowed for a pushchair/wheelchair to pass on the pavement is illegal.

16/41 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. A group of villagers took part in 'Clean for the Queen' litter pick on Saturday 4th March, collecting litter from the village lanes, the Loop Road, both verges on the A65 and the picnic area by Devil's Bridge
- b. There was no public support for a Beacon to be built/lit on Brownthwaite nor an afternoon tea/event to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday – there is an afternoon event in Kirkby Lonsdale on Saturday 11th June which everyone is welcome to attend.
- c. The Annual Assembly meeting on 18th April was quite well attended (23) and reports were received from the Parish Council, WI, Village Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Sedbergh /Casterton School, the Police and County and District Councillors. It was noted that our County Councillor has not attended any Parish Council meetings for two years. The AGM of Casterton Community Trust followed this meeting
- d. The Chairman attended the Respect meeting on 14th March at Sedbergh Peoples Hall. The arrangements for the Fair will be the same as last year, with community 'Drop-in' days alternating between Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale. The temporary bridge at Middleton Hall is to be surfaced with tarmac and extended to accommodate the horse drawn caravans. A closure notice has been received today starting tomorrow 24th May to carry out work to this bridge. Today, three bow tops, various vehicles and two horse boxes have been parked in the Loop road, preventing parking for cars, and approximately 20 horses are in Wood Close field. The Police and SLDC have been notified. The Appleby Horse Fair starts on 3rd June and these travellers should not be here until 31st May.

- e. Three councillors attended the LAP meeting on 26th April at Barbon Village Hall. David Butterworth (Chief Executive) and Peter Charlesworth (Chairman) of YDNPA gave a presentation and answered questions.
- f. A number of residents have objected to the various 'banners' on the railings at Devil's Bridge as some could be permanent and surely this is 'free commercial advertising'. The Clerk agreed to contact CCC Highways regarding this.
- g. Councillor Humphris noted that the number of new dwellings in Casterton Parish in the last two years - either built, approved by SLDC but not yet built, or applications in the planning pipeline to SLDC - comes to 38. This represents growth of approximately 30% in the number of dwellings. The number includes about half a dozen new builds, but is mainly conversion of other buildings. This burst of activity, together with a reduction in the number of agricultural buildings, means that Casterton will inevitably have a more urban feel, and look less like a working village, in the future.
- h. The two shelters recently erected on Casterton Golf Course driving range are large and unsightly and totally incompatible with the open, rural nature of their surroundings, particularly in view of the fact that Casterton will shortly be part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Located in the immediate vicinity of the recently-improved public bridleway known as Laitha Lane (Public Right of Way 509019) they measure around 3 metres high by 8 metres long, and consist of a metal structure with plastic covers. They are clearly visible from the bridleway for much of its length, from other parts of the village and the A683. It was agreed to contact SLDC's Enforcement Officer regarding this.
- i. Councillor Humphris reported on the rapid progress being made in the area by B4RN.

16/42 Officer's Reports:

- a. **Public Rights of Way.** Footpath 509008. Councillor Wildsmith reported that she had contacted Guy Timperley of CCC on 10th May, having noticed that the metal barriers and sign saying the bridge was closed had been moved. On asking whether or not the bridge was open and by implication safe, Guy contacted Henry Armitage who replied that it is open. There is still some work to do, hence barriers have been left in situ, but as far as is known it is safe to be used. Various items connected to the work have been left on site, i.e. metal girders, a sack of left over cement, etc. and it is hoped that these will be cleared away when the work is finally completed. The temporary closure notice extends until August. It was agreed to contact Guy Timperley for clarification as to whether the bridge is safe to use.
- b. **Highways.** Councillor Bye said that the long-awaited repairs and re-surfacing to the lanes around the village finally began last week, at Colliers Lane and School Lane. It is likely to be completed by the end of next month. The Chairman agreed to contact Joanne Parker to ask if places where the verges had become part of resident's gardens could be returned to their former condition as part of the public highway.
- c. **Village Hall.** The last event was a plant sale and coffee morning on 23rd April and the AGM is on Wednesday this week – 25th May

16/43 Community-Led Plan:

In March, a short questionnaire was delivered to all households, and the facility to respond was also made available on the village website. At the working group meeting on 12th May, the responses to the paper questionnaires were opened, and the content of these, together with those submitted via the website, were analysed to produce a summary of the things about Casterton that people either liked, disliked or would like to change. A total of 31 individual responses (29 adult, two children) was received, representing 15% of the total population, and this number may include duplicates from the same person/people. The questionnaire for the 2012 Parish Plan elicited a response rate of 64% amongst adults. The next meeting, on 26th May, will decide the next steps.

16/44 Street lights:

All columns and lanterns have been replaced as planned, except the new one near Croft House which is due to be erected later this week and then ENW will connect a supply of electricity.

The Chairman has spoken with Claire Reed (Financial Officer SLDC) regarding paying for our electricity directly to EON instead of via SLDC. Her recommendation is that the Council makes this change at the end of a quarter, which will be 30th June. The Council would need to pay any outstanding amounts to SLDC – these are always charged in arrears and any usage before the Council takes over the supply. She would provide any documentation required to start discussions with EON or another supplier. Any repairs or maintenance required in the future could be with Jones Lighting or someone else who is approved. It was resolved to go ahead with direct payments, to pay SLDC any amounts outstanding and then the new regular payments.

16/45 YDNPA matters:

Councillor Humphris reported as follows:

- a. The new Authority is moving quickly towards embracing the new extension areas.
- b. In Casterton, by making use of volunteers, all the Public Rights of Way have been subjected to a detailed survey so that the Authority knows the extent of any remedial work that may be needed. The Casterton PROW's are generally in reasonable condition.
- c. Whilst some individual staff in the Authority have knowledge of Casterton, many do not. To aid familiarisation with the new area, two groups of staff are being taken on guided walks in and around Casterton, led by a local volunteer, in June and July.
- d. Planning Officers are now routinely examining planning applications in Casterton that have been submitted to SLDC, and commenting where they feel the proposal is in conflict with the National Parks Statutory purposes.

16/46 Correspondence:

Electoral Review of South Lakeland. This letter will be circulated and the facility for individuals to make their own response advertised. Any change in Ward boundaries will not affect Casterton which is already part of a three-member Ward.

16/47 Finance:

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

Graham Linley	£125.00	Village Green maintenance (honorary)
Alex Mazurek	£125.00	Village Green maintenance (honorary)
Jones Lighting	£2,375.27	Street lighting work (to note)
Enid Hastings	£16.90	Envelopes for Community-Led Plan (to note)
HMRC	£231.57	PAYE (to note)
K M Price	£74.94	Final back holiday pay (to note)
CALC	£130.00	Annual subscription
Zurich Municipal	£415.91	Insurance premium
J Hartley & Sons	£268.80	Work on drains (to note)
SLDC	£446.78	Litter bin emptying (to note)
Ian Johnson	£211.20	Newsletter (3 invoices) (to note)
K M Price	£2.56	Balancing payment (salary increase April)
K M Price	£162.06	Quarterly expenses to 31st March including use of home office
K M Price	£82.77	Quarterly holiday pay (net)

- b. The Clerk presented the provisional accounts for 2015-16 and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign Parts 1 and 2 of the Annual Return.
- c. It was resolved to review, at the next meeting, the honorarium paid to those who maintain the Village Green and also to advertise in the meantime to see if anyone else is interested in taking this job on.
- d. A 1% salary increase has been agreed by NJC and recommended by SLCC/NALC, from 1st April 2016. It was resolved to adopt this recommendation and adjust the bank standing order accordingly. There will be a balancing payment of £2.56 due for April. It was also resolved, now the back holiday payments to the Clerk are completed, to make the current holiday payments quarterly by standing order, commencing in June 2016.
- e. The Clerk reported that he is chasing up the Council's one 'bad debt' - an amount owing for the photocopied response to a Freedom of Information request.

16/48 Planning:

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

SL/2016/0093 The Croft, Old Manor Court, High Casterton. Single storey rear extension and erection of detached single storey home office in rear garden. Approval recommended.

SL/2016/0108 Barn at The Stables, Bindloss, Wandales Lane. Conversion of barn to dwelling. Approval recommended.

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). Approval recommended with conditions.

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

SL/2016/0108 Barn at The Stables, Bindloss, Wandles Lane. Conversion of barn to dwelling. Granted.

SL/2016/0041 Medical Centre at Sedbergh Preparatory School Casterton. Demolition of the vacant medical centre and the erection of the two dwellings on site with associated landscaping and modified access. Granted.

SL/2016/0093 The Croft, Old Manor Court, High Casterton. Single storey rear extension and erection of detached single storey home office in rear garden. Granted.

- c. *The following applications were considered:*

SL/2016/0359 Laitha Cottage, High Casterton. Single storey extension. Approval recommended.

SL/2016/0394 Crookenden House & Garner House, Casterton Lower School, Casterton. Conversion of former boarding school premises to provide 4 dwellings (net increase 2 dwellings). Approval recommended.

SL/2016/0312 The Stables, Wandles Lane, Casterton. Single storey extension. Approval recommended.

SL/2016/0377 Loftwood, Casterton. Two storey rear extension, front porch and a replacement attached garage to the side. Approval recommended, with a condition that contractor's vehicles should be parked off-road, roads should be swept clear of rubble and potholes caused by HGVs should be repaired.

CU/2016/0008 Agricultural barn at Fell Yeat Casterton. Conversion of existing agricultural building to form a single dwellinghouse. Approval recommended.

SL/2016/0408 Bees Nest Farm, Casterton. Demolition of existing extension/shed and erection of single storey extension. Approval recommended, with a condition that contractor's vehicles should be parked off-road, roads should be swept clear of rubble and potholes caused by HGVs should be repaired.

SL/2016/0401 Bees Nest Farm, Casterton. Demolition of existing cowshed /slurry pit/ tank, silage clamp and erection of two dwellings; Demolition of existing extension/shed and erection of new extension to existing farmhouse and erection of stone boundary wall/gate to define curtilage of existing dwelling. Approval recommended, with a condition that contractor's vehicles should be parked off-road, roads should be swept clear of rubble and damage caused by HGVs should be repaired. Also that access to these developments should be considered and either widening of the road and the provision of extra passing places should be investigated.

16/49 Future agenda items:

- a. YDNP matters for update.
- b. New Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

16/50 Date of next meeting:

Monday 4th July 2016 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed:

Dated: