

Casterton Parish Council
Meeting of April 14th 2022
at 7.30pm in the village hall

Those present included the Chairman Councillor Benson, also Councillors Coombs, Evans and Lodge, and two members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm, with best wishes for the health of the clerk, Kevin Price, who is suffering from Covid.

22/35 Public participation

- The point was made that it is not always easy to find out what is happening when correspondence has been sent to the parish council. This was accepted and a current proposal to reintroduce a 'correspondence' heading in each agenda was mentioned.
- A complaint was made that the South Lakeland archives still do not hold a full set of PC minutes, and that in any case a special trip Kendal can take most of a day if using public transport. Councillor Coombs offered to investigate the possibility of adding older minutes to the website if that could be done without seeming to clutter the site.
- Ten references to traffic problems involving North Heads Lane had been found in the PC minutes between 1952 and 1980, so this obviously not solely a new problem. A request was made, and presented in writing, that the PC support any measures necessary to prevent HGVs from damaging properties along the lane.

22/36 Apologies for absence

An apology on health grounds had been received from the clerk, Kevin Price, as mentioned above.

22/37 Requests for dispensations

A certain amount of confusion was expressed about precisely what should be declared under this and the following heading. For example, the Chairman is the PC's representative on the Casterton Community Trust; does this need to be declared?

22/38 Declarations of interest

None were mentioned.

22/39 Minutes

It was pointed out that the minutes to be signed were those from the meeting of March 3rd 2002, not those of January 13th as mentioned in the agenda. In any case the copy to be signed was not present owing to the absence of the clerk, so this item was held over until the next meeting.

22/40 Reports

County Councillor – none present.

District councillor – none present.

Village hall committee representative – Councillor Coombs reported that there had not been a meeting of the committee since the last PC meeting, but that the Village Hall Committee AGM would be held on April 21st, at which he hoped to be present. Two requests were made: that the village hall make no charge for events to be held during the forthcoming Jubilee weekend, and that positive relations between the village hall and the church be encouraged. Councillor Coombs undertook to bring these up at the AGM.

A request was then made that the church be added to this report section of future agendas, Councillor Evans being willing to present a short report when appropriate. This was welcomed by those present.

22/41 CANS (Councils Against Noise & Speed)

Councillor Evans reported that this groups meets on Zoom every two months. Apparently acoustic cameras which can detect and record the presence of noisy vehicles are to be trialled soon. Councils will need to request to borrow them.

It was requested that the next PC meeting include an agenda item to permit discussion of an ideal speed limit for the A683.

22/42 Financial matters

In the absence of the clerk this item was largely held over until the next meeting. However, there was some discussion about the range of items on which the CIL money could be spent, though without any authoritative conclusions.

22/43 Planning

No new planning applications have been received.

Councillor Coombs asked whether the new Brontë House flats have been completed in full, as he wishes to identify all the new property names so that they can be added to the village maps. The conclusion was that a survey would be best left for another month or two until all are occupied.

22/44 Neighbourhood Watch scheme

The Chairman summarised the current situation. Whilst there is no current NW scheme in Casterton, this could be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting in May, and the PC would support the setting up of a new scheme.

A question was asked about any data held by the previous NW coordinator, and whether that should be deleted to comply with GDPR, but it was suggested that any such proposal be delayed until after the parish meeting in case a new coordinator came forward to whom any such information could be transferred.

22/45 Platinum Jubilee weekend

Councillor Lodge reported that a series of regular meetings had been going well. A plan for the four day weekend was in course of development, and a summary was circulated. An application had been made for a grant.

Councillor Lodge ran through a list of proposed events, summarising the funds that would be needed in each case. Councillor Coombs has a current first aid certificate and he agreed to attend the events where such a person would be needed, which obviated one large possible item of expenditure. Other items involving expenditure included plant tubs, food and drink for the Thursday evening walk up onto the fell and the Friday night '50s party, ingredients for the cookery demonstration, donation buckets, the purchase of bunting, the booking of Boogie Bill, and appropriate public liability insurance. A request was made that the PC under-write the expenditure to a maximum of £900 later revised to £1000, though other sources are being approached and donations will be solicited during the weekend. This was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Coombs and was carried *nem con*.

Further topics of discussion included the need for the results of the cookery demonstration to be also made available for residents who are less able to attend, the arrangements for the WI commemorative tree on the green, and ways of fulfilling the 'living verges' scheme within the parish including the need to minimise inappropriate cutting through the summer. In reference to the latter it was suggested that this be an agenda item at a later meeting, so that the school could be reminded not to cut hedges during August.

22/46 Casterton Neighbours

A summary report had been received from the Casterton Neighbours committee and this was appreciated. There was debate about the opinions expressed at the previous PC meeting whereby the Neighbours had been said to have no separate formal structure outside the parish council. It was agreed that this probably means that they count as 'a working group' rather than 'a sub-committee', which latter would require rather more formality and paperwork.

It was noted that information and advice had recently come from CALC re resilience plans, and that this needed to be taken into account in any future activities in this field.

Councillors expressed their willingness in principle to support the Casterton Neighbours scheme in the future, but noted that for obvious accountability reasons this would require complete openness in terms of the minutes of any meetings, annual accounts, and participation/observation by current councillors. It was hoped that the Neighbours would feel confident enough to post their essential details on a permanent basis in the bus shelter, the crossroads cabinet, and on the village website.

22/47 Permissive path

Councillor Evans is talking to the YDNPA about this.

The Chairman also proposed that consideration be given to formal creation/recognition of a path from the school's pavilion/nursery road out to the A683 and as close as possible to the end of Greenber Lane, in order to bypass the dangerous section of the main road crossing Casterton Beck.

22/48 The website

Councillor Coombs had recently met with Marjorie Murray and William Mawdsley to discuss the website. He had already acted on several of the proposals and would be taking further action when time permitted. He reiterated that comments and suggestions were always welcome, not least because he himself did not have time to pro-actively search out new items or material

22/49 Casterton twinning

Councillor Evans stated that this topic was ongoing. The Chairman suggested that the Jubilee celebrations might provide a way in to this topic in any correspondence with Casterton NSW.

22/50 The next meeting

This will be the Annual Parish Meeting on the 26th May. The hope was expressed that the clerk would already have booked the village hall for that date.

The Chairman closed the meeting at approximately 9.25pm.