

Minutes of a meeting of
Casterton Parish Council
held at Casterton Village Hall
on Thursday 15th December 2022 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Chris Benson (Chairman), Martin Coombs and Lisa Lodge and two members of the public. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Stephen Evans and received from District Councillor Kevin Lancaster. Parish Clerk Kevin Price was also absent due to his domestic circumstances.

22/93 Public participation:

- a. A number of other villages and towns have interpreted the word 'resilience', as encouraged by Action in Cumbria, in a rather different way to the situation here in Casterton.
- b. Light-hearted historical thoughts about weather-vanes.
- c. A request that the meeting note with regret the recent death of Eve Beresford, who was a former Clerk to the Council, and appreciate the donation by her daughters of four large flower tubs to add to those already in the Council's care. This was supported by all those present.

22/94 Requests for Dispensations: None.

22/95 Declarations of Interest:

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

22/96 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2022, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

22/97 Finance:

- a. There were no outstanding accounts to pay. However, there were lessons to be learnt from the last meeting's weathervane decision, including the need to ensure the Council follows its donations policy in the future; also the need to review and if necessary update all of the Council's policies.

The Clerk is to be asked to check the legality of paying for the Council's portion of the weathervane cost from the CIL money.

- b. The suggested figures for the precept for 2023-4 received from the Clerk were noted and discussed. The majority were approved as suggested by the Clerk, and any amendments will be included in the attached summary.

It was therefore resolved to make a Precept upon South Lakeland District Council/Westmorland and Furness Council in the sum of £10,683 for the financial year 2023-24.

- c. The Jubilee grant: The proposed tree-planting is on course, but YDNP still has not responded to our wish to cut down and replace the unhealthy 1977 cherry tree on the Village Green, and the Clerk will make contact again. There needs to be detailed planning as to how to proceed at Cuckoo Bridge. The remainder of the grant money needs to be spent on volunteer-led items.

22/98 Planning

The following applications were considered:

S/05/53 1 Bronte Cottages, Low Wood, Casterton. Householder planning permission for erection of timber shed for general garden storage sited on level paved area to the side of the property. No objections.

S/05/45B Casterton Cottage, Casterton. Householder planning permission for erection of greenhouse within garden curtilage. No objections.

There seems to have been some confusion about the Council's comments on the Hoggs Hill radio mast proposal (S/05/49 Land at Hoggs Hill, Barbon Low Fell, off Fell Lane, Casterton - now rejected by YDNPA), with them having been forwarded as if applying to the Armistead Wind Farm life extension, to the serious perplexity of the wind farm owners.

There has still been no response from the Underley Estate regarding the Japanese knotweed. This needs to go on the agenda again, and the Clerk is requested to contact the estate again.

22/99 Events for the forthcoming Coronation:

It was suggested that an open meeting be organised, for Wednesday 15th February, if possible, Councillors Benson and Lodge to organise this. It would be good to have some different events from last year, such as parish walks and a barbecue, though a beacon lighting might be organised again even if not co-ordinated nationally.

22/100 Notice boards:

Councillor Coombs updated the meeting on his efforts to obtain new boards for the bus shelter. He had come to the conclusion that a closed magnetic board for approx. 1/3 of the area, and an open pin board for the remaining area, could be obtained for a good deal less than the initial quotation received from a business in Kendal, and possibly for a total of less than £400. The meeting resolved that Councillor Coombs be authorised to proceed with this without further reference to a Council meeting.

Councillor Lodge will obtain the dimensions that would be acceptable to the land-owner for a replacement board in High Casterton, and will forward these to Councillor Coombs., who will make up small laminated notices for each board, to state that all notices should in future bear the contact details of the person responsible for them.

22/101 Councils Against Noise and Speed:

Councillor Evans had reported that nothing further had been heard on this topic.

22/102 Proposed parliamentary boundary changes:

Whilst differing attitudes were apparent, it was agreed that the Clerk be asked to express the collective opinion that the status quo (with the parish being part of the Westmorland Constituency) would be preferable to the proposal for this parish to become part of Lancaster and Morecambe.

22/103 Correspondence

A letter had been received from Mrs Enid Hastings regarding a proposal for the creation of a separate website that would take over the wider village roles of the current Parish Council site. Whilst this proposal has merit, the letter itself had caused puzzlement as it attributed a clear opinion to the Village Hall committee, despite that body apparently not having discussed the matter at any of their meetings. Clearly, this needs to be aired in an open meeting in the New Year, for the Council as a whole needs to be assured that what is proposed is in the interests of the whole community.

In the meantime letters will be drafted to Mrs Hastings and Mrs Sally Hodge to update them on the Council's opinion.

Further correspondence had been received on the state of the church bells, and Mr Ron Bulman would be asked to complete a grant application form, whilst Councillor Benson will consult with CALC on the legality of financially supporting the work needed on the bells.

22/104 Date of the next meeting:

Whilst the next meeting would normally be in late February, it was felt that a rather earlier date would be helpful. There was no point in fixing a precise date until the Clerk had been consulted, as it is his diary which is likely to be most full.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed:

Dated: