

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 2.30pm.

Present were Councillors Chris Benson (Chairman), Martin Coombs and Lisa Lodge, three members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Evans and District Councillor Kevin Lancaster.

23/18 Public participation:

- a. The following statement was made (by email) in relation to the published minutes of the last meeting:

*The least that residents who take an interest in council matters can expect of the council minutes is that they are accurate and timely.
If CPC wants residents to have any belief in the parish council, they might begin by paying due regard to these requirements.*

- b. A report was made of very tall trees, covered in ivy, opposite Beckside that are deemed to be dangerous. It is uncertain whose land these are on. The Chairman agreed to contact Councillor Mitchell for advice.
- c. Trees by the beck, N near the old Pinfold, are growing very high and the ivy is causing the wall to crumble. An attempt will be made to confirm the ownership of the land known as "The Pinfold". The Chairman will include this in his enquiry to Councillor Mitchell and ask for a site meeting. A report will be given at the next meeting.
- d. Japanese Knotweed. This would be discussed later in the meeting.
- e. Comments were made regarding ACT and Community Resilience. It was also commented that there had been no water supply for 8am this morning from High Casterton to the Village Hall. The purchase of a generator for community use in these situations would be an asset to the village. The Chairman felt that this is a matter for the new Council to take up and it will be an agenda item for the Annual Parish Meeting in May, to which all groups and organisations will be invited.
- f. Thanks were expressed to the outgoing Council and especially to Councillor Coombs, who is not standing again but who has been very active in setting up the new website, taking minutes when required and performing many other tasks behind the scenes. This was agreed by all present.

23/19 Requests for Dispensations: None.

23/20 Declarations of Interest:

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

23/21 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2023, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, the following amendment being noted:

'Minute 23/10 - defibrillators. The Council, after a lot of debate, agreed to renew the one opposite the Village Hall which expires this year but to defer a decision on the one in High Casterton, which has another year to run'.

23/22 Finance – it was resolved to pay the following account:

HMRC	£17.60	PAYE
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23/24 Planning: None.

23/25 Events to be planned for the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III:

Councillor Lodge reported that a meeting of the 'Jubilee' group had been held recently and plans made for the Coronation of King Charles III.

The balance of the Jubilee grant was considered and there is about £6,000 remaining which needs to be spent with the year it was granted.

It was resolved to purchase a screen and projector for use in the Village Hall, which will be owned by the Council but will be for community use, including film nights etc. The Council will be responsible for maintenance and insurance. A 'trial run' of the screen could be scheduled for the Saturday of the Coronation weekend. The Council favoured the idea of making the screen 'transportable' so it could be used elsewhere in due course, eg the Church/outdoors.

The 'Coronation' group was authorised to go ahead with the purchase, and to consider alternative quotations if thought fit. The screen could be supplied and fitted within two to three weeks.

Any monies remaining could be spent on other capital equipment for art purposes or the benches and posts already under discussion. The Chairman said he had a suitable tree that could be planted for the event and could decorate the hall as appropriate. It is not yet known if there will be a special Church service.

PROPOSED EVENTS FOR WEEKEND

Saturday 6th May - possible live stream of Coronation using the equipment bought from the jubilee grant in Village Hall - bring own refreshments.

Sunday 7th May - Jacobs Join big lunch in Village Hall
live stream concert in evening

Monday 8th May - big help out, possible walk in the village (route to be arranged), with BBQ type refreshments (to be confirmed).

A competition - to decorate with a Coronation theme a small tree, supplied by the Council - no age bar.

23/26 Parish Elections 2023:

The Clerk outlined the Election process. The Notice of Election will be issued on 20th March and nominations must be in by 4pm on Tuesday 4th April. Election packs have been sent to all present Councillors, except those who have indicated their intention not to stand again.

Further packs are available from the Clerk or SLDC and help will be given in completing the necessary forms if required. The contact at SLDC is Tom Benson, who is willing to help with any further enquiries. The Clerk will take forms in if they reach him by 0900 on 29th March but ultimately it is the responsibility of those being nominated.

23/27 Japanese Knotweed:

The Clerk has been in touch with Mr Armitage and he would like to meet those who have expressed concerns about this weed. The legal obligation of the owner of the land to eradicate this has been noted. Councillor Lodge agreed to make further contact and keep the Clerk informed as to progress.

23/28 Correspondence: None.

23/29 Open Forum:

- a. Councillor Coombs reported that the notice boards are now ready. The Chairman will set the boards up and fit some aluminium backing to them. Michael Whitaker would deal with them but is very busy at present.
- b. The Clerk said that the shortage of First Responders was discussed at Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council recently as they are in the same position. One of the KLTC Councillors is making enquiries via a remaining First Responder and will report in due course. It is believed that the present shortage is due to the work becoming more onerous and the paperwork more demanding.

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their support during their term of office, at this final meeting of the present Council. He also thanked County and District Councillors for their regular attendance, especially Councillor Kevin Lancaster for his work over many years.

23/30 Date of the next meeting:

***Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall
(This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting)***

The meeting closed at 3.50pm

Signed:

Dated:

DRAFT