

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Thursday 20th July 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Stephen Evans (Chairman), Chris Benson and Ken Humphris, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson, four members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Enid Hastings.

23/45 Public participation:

Possible use of a speed camera (minute 23/43 of the previous meeting). It was wondered why this was not on the agenda now. The Council felt, after some discussion, that in view of the findings of the last speed survey, (when, during the course of one week, 16,000 vehicles had been recorded but only five were travelling at more than 33mph), this was not necessary at present.

23/46 Requests for Dispensations: None.

23/47 Declarations of Interest:

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

23/48 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2023, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/49 Co-option of New Councillor:

Until the new Council nominates its preferred Councillor(s) as Founder Trustee of Casterton Community Trust it is not possible to adopt a new Councillor who is already a Trustee. It was therefore not possible to co-opt the proposed new Councillor,

The subject of Council representation on the Trust will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

23/50 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

Casterton Village Hall	£288.26	Reimbursement – Installation of Audio/Visual equipment in the hall.
Casterton Village Hall	£15.65	ditto
Duncan Hamlett	£50.00	Internal Audit – honorarium
HMRC	£270.80	PAYE (noted)

K M Price

£164.96

Quarterly expenses to 30th June,
Including use of home office and travel.

- b. The report from the Internal Auditor on the Council's Accounts for 2022-23 was received with thanks. There were no issues arising to be brought to the Council's attention.
- c. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- d. It was agreed to ask former Councillor Lisa Lodge to confirm if all the Jubilee grant has now been spent.

23/51 Westmorland & Furness Councillor:

Councillor Hodgson said that the new Council is already involved in the following:

- a. Budget setting
- b. Children and Young People
- c. Highways – prioritising work.
- d. Climate and Biodiversity – reducing energy waste/Green Plan.
- e. Sustainable transport
- f. Solar projects
- g. A target of 7,000 to be built each year, but only 20% of the target at present.

Councillor Hodgson agreed to assist the Parish Council whenever possible and will send any material relevant to this parish to the Clerk, especially in relation to energy issues. In connection with a future ambition of the Council to identify rotten/dangerous roadside trees, Councillor Hodgson agreed to provide a map of the village for Councillors to mark those roads possibly at risk, which she would ask W&F Highways to inspect for potentially dangerous trees and make recommendations.

23/52 Planning:

- a. *The Council considered the following application and no objections were raised:*

S/05/45D Casterton Cottage, Casterton. Section 73 application to vary conditions 2 (design details), 4 (door and window frame colour) & 7 (finish of walls) of S/05/45A (Householder planning permission for erection of double storey front extension and creation of two additional parking spaces)

- b. *The Clerk had commented on the following application, under his delegated powers, and recommended refusal:*

S/05/42A Bees Nest Farm, Casterton. Full planning permission for erection of a single dwellinghouse with associated parking and curtilage; installation of package treatment plant, ground source heat pump and roof integrated solar panels

23/53 CANS (Councils Against Noise and Speed):

There have been no meetings recently but Councillor Evans will continue attending these when they re-start.

23/54 Japanese Knotweed:

It was agreed to contact former Councillor Lisa Lodge, who had previously taken this matter up with Underley Estates, in order to ascertain what the current position is regarding its removal. Councillor Benson agreed to approach the Underley Land Agent to understand their views and intentions.

23/55 Correspondence:

- a. Correspondence from a resident, regarding water supply problems in the Kirkby Lonsdale and Casterton areas had been circulated. It was agreed that, at present, no further action was required, but the Council is grateful for the information.
- b. Verge damage at Colliers Lane. Correspondence had been circulated in relation to this. Although there have been difficulties in this area for the past eight months, due to building work, there has been a problem at the crossroads for many years, due to poor drainage and repeated verge damage by heavy vehicles. Things have now improved, as the building work has been completed and the drains have been emptied, but if the problem persists then W&F Highways will need to be asked to resolve it.
- c. Emails had been circulated regarding the Pinfold and associated issues (minute 23/18c refers). Vegetation damage is occurring on the bridge and there is Japanese Knotweed on the Pinfold. The ownership of the retaining wall and the Pinfold is unknown, and needs to be established to move things forward. The Council's thanks were expressed to Mr and Mrs Simpkin for clearing much of the undergrowth that was affecting sightlines.
- d. Steve Hastie (YDNP) had been approached by a resident, and the Council had also been approached by a resident, expressing concerns about the behaviour of pupils from Casterton Sedbergh School, both supervised and unsupervised, being discourteous and disruptive when using public roads and footpaths in the parish. It was felt generally not to be an issue; the children are often noisy but this is to be expected. Two residents who live close to the school complimented the pupils on their behaviour.

23/56 Possible future agenda items:

Use of the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies.

A number of possible items were discussed and, as a start, the following were agreed, with Councillors to 'lead'.

Planning 'group' – Councillor Humphris to lead plus one other Councillor.

Development of Cuckoo Bridge – Councillor Benson to continue leading on this. A brief description of the work envisaged together with likely costings was requested so that the new Council can confirm its interest in this worthwhile project, which was initiated by the previous Council.

Footpaths – Councillor Evans to lead.

Trees - Councillor Benson to lead - he will remove the decaying tree from the Village Green.

Village Green – Councillor Benson will lead on general maintenance of the area (the grass is cut regularly)

Communications with YDNPA - Councillor Humphris to lead.

Highways - No Councillor at present felt able to lead on this item.

(Other matters will be carried forward for consideration at a future meeting)

23/57 Date of the next meeting:

Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed:

Dated: