

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 16th October 2023 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Stephen Evans (Chairman), Chris Benson and Ken Humphris, four members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

23/58 Public participation:

- a. The Council's attention was drawn to the fact that the new five-year contract for the defibrillators (if agreed) would extend into the period of office of the new Council, and this would mean imposing a burden that they may not welcome.
- b. It was noted that there were no notices announcing this meeting on either notice board. In future, the Clerk will send both the agenda and the minutes to Councillor Benson who will display them in the two boards.

23/59 Requests for Dispensations: None.

23/60 Declarations of Interest:

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

23/61 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2023, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The following points were made:

- a. (minute 23/56) Village Green. Councillor Benson did not agree to lead on the Village Green.
- b. (minute 23/55d) Behaviour of school children. Councillor Benson disagreed with this minute and said that there is much disquiet in the village on this issue, and felt that the children need to learn respect. He believed that there were others in the village and not just the 'one' referred to in the minutes. The Clerk said this figure had come from Steve Hastie of YDNP. Several residents had praised the behaviour of the children.

23/62 Website:

- a. Guidance of reporting various issues. Details had been circulated to Councillors and it was agreed to place this document on the website.
- b. The webmaster (Sally Hodge) was authorised to post Parish Council matters as well as village items on the website and the Council expressed thanks to her for the work she does.

23/63 Recruitment of volunteers for various tasks:

A draft poster had been circulated, advertising for general help with tasks around the parish. It was resolved to put this on the website. Councillors were asked to send any comments or suggestions about the poster to the webmaster.

23/64 Finance:

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

Westmorland & Furness Council		
	£624.00	Litter bin emptying
HMRC	£272.60	PAYE
T Flitcroft	£90.00	Payroll administration – annual payment
Narked Ltd	£253.00	Hosting and Domain renewal
K M Price	£149.67	Quarterly expenses to 30 th September, Including use of home off and travel

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted. Councillor Benson said it was understood that the payment to VETS would be cancelled, as a report of this group's Annual Meeting had not been presented, as requested. The Clerk pointed out that representatives of the group had attended a Council meeting and explained that they are still active and the telephone service is available as before. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored during the coming year and the Clerk will request a report/visit of representatives at some point. Councillor Benson wished it to be recorded that he voted against this.
- c. It was resolved that the contract for the defibrillator at High Casterton should be renewed, so that both defibrillators are on a five-year contract. Councillor Benson wished it to be recorded that he voted against this.
- d. It was agreed to procure a Royal Portrait to hang in the Village Hall. Councillor Humphris will make enquiries. The CIL money could probably be used for this purpose.
- e. Use of the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money. An interpretation board for the village was mentioned as a possibility. It was suggested that publicity about the available money be placed on notice boards and the website.
- f. It was resolved to contribute £35 for the Poppy Wreath which will be recycled from last year.

23/65 Planning:

There were no current planning applications to consider.

Councillor Benson asked for some clarity regarding planning applications and how they are dealt with. The Clerk responded:

- a. If an application has to be responded to before the next Parish Council meeting (which frequently happens), the Clerk is authorised to comment, under his delegated authority. If, however, it is a major application, then an additional Council meeting would be arranged before the deadline.
- b. The Clerk will circulate any new applications to all Councillors and ask - if Councillors wish to comment – that a response is made within seven days. The Clerk will collate the responses and, should there be divergent views expressed, consult the Chairman before submitting the response.

23/66 Casterton Community Trust:

Councillor Benson was nominated as the Council's Representative on the Casterton Community Trust.

23/67 CANS (Councils Against Noise and Speed):

The Chairman said that no meetings had been held during the summer months but the Council is still committed to being part of this group when meetings again take place.

23/68 Japanese Knotweed:

Councillor Benson reported that the Underley agent said that information had been sent to the Clerk.

The Clerk had not received a reply to his more recent enquiries so there was nothing to report.

Councillor Benson felt that Himalayan Balsam was a bigger threat, but no action was proposed to deal with either weed.

23/69 Correspondence:

Most of the correspondence received is circulated to Councillors and there was nothing further to report.

23/70 The Lune Valley: Three Counties/One River Project:

Although this project was most interesting, it was felt that, as the Council is not yet back to full strength, there was no possibility at present of being part of it.

23/71 Dangerous trees in the parish:

A map of the parish is awaited from Councillor Hazel Hodgson (minute 23/51g) to enable volunteers to map potentially dangerous roadside trees.

23/72 Date of the next meeting:

***Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm at Casterton Village Hall
(This will be the Precept Meeting).***

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed:

Dated:

DRAFT