

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Stephen Evans (Chairman), Chris Benson and Ken Humphris, 12 members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

24/18 Public participation:

- a. King's Portrait. It was asked why, when all Town and Parish Councils are eligible to apply for a portrait to commemorate the ascension of His Majesty King Charles III, at no cost to themselves, is a reimbursement for £39.99 for such a portrait. The Clerk explained that the offer of a free portrait arrived after this Parish Council had ordered its own. An order for the free portrait will now be placed.
- b. It is felt there is too much furniture on the Village Green, and the erection of an interpretation panel will only add to the clutter. This would be discussed later in the meeting.

24/19 Requests for Dispensations: None.

24/20 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Humphris declared an interest in Agenda item 7c ('Save the Pheasant') and took no part in the discussion.

24/21 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2024, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24/6b Precept. Councillor Benson understood that £500 had been added to the Precept. The Clerk agreed to check what the final figures were. (Since the meeting, this has been checked and the minute is correct and therefore stands).

24/1c The use of the word 'speaker' was queried. The Clerk explained that this was acceptable practice and that it is advised, generally, that names of members of the public who take part in the meetings are not given in the minutes.

24/22 Co-option of new Councillors:

Three applicants had been interviewed prior to the meeting. Councillor Benson had not agreed with the majority decision and wished this to be put on record.

It was resolved to coopt Stephen Richmond to the Council. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his seat.

24/23 Procedure for the adoption of Councillors:

It was agreed that a procedure for the Co-option of new Councillors will be drawn up and brought to the next meeting for approval and adoption.

24/24 Finance:

- a. It was resolved to pay the following account:

Ken Humphris	£39.99	Portrait of King Charles III (reimbursement)
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- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- c. A request from the village group 'Save the Pheasant' was considered and Nick Blake was invited to address the Council in support of this. After discussion, it was resolved that the Council will contribute the £1,000 applied for, to help fund the initial costs of the project. This includes printing and stationery costs for the survey work and membership of the Plunkett Foundation, whose advice is being sought as to the most suitable legal structure for any intervention. This would enable a bank account to be opened and until then monies would be requested from the Council against receipt.
- d. The Clerk circulated a report on the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) monies and pointed out that the earlier payment of £3,751.88 needs to be spent soon; otherwise the Five-year rule will apply.

The following suggestions were made for using the money:

- i. Additional dog waste bin – a survey will be made to ascertain how many bins are required.
- ii. Notice Board at High Casterton. Former Councillor Martin Coombs had made a start on this; Councillor Humphris agreed to enquire if this is still going ahead. The Council resolved to purchase a new notice board if necessary, Councillor Humphris to make arrangements for this.
- iii. Interpretation panel on the Village Green. Instead of a conventional interpretation panel on the Village Green, it was suggested that a smaller panel with less information but containing a QR code might be better. The QR code would link to much greater data on the village website, and other QR code boards could be put at other points around the village.

24/25 Planning:

The following application was considered:

S/05/42B Bees Nest Farm, Casterton. Erection of single dwellinghouse with ancillary accommodation, associated parking and curtilage, installation of package treatment plant, roof integrated solar panels, ground source heat pump and associated works.

(Councillor Benson and Humphris had attended a site meeting).

The following response was agreed:

“Casterton Parish Council supports this application. But previous and current developments in the village have, and are causing inconvenience for residents, and much damage to lanes and verges by virtue of the developers/supplier’s vehicles. The Council therefore requests that if planning permission is given, that it is made conditional on a comprehensive scheme being made (and implemented) by the architect to ensure that heavy vehicle and delivery vehicles access the site by the most suitable, and least damaging route. Damage to lanes and verges must be minimised and any minor damage reinstated at the completion of the work”.

24/26 D-Day remembrance – June 8th 2024:

Councillor Benson said that all arrangements for the lighting of a beacon on Brownthwaite Fell are now in hand. The Village Hall committee are also planning an ‘Open Gardens event’ to coincide, half of the proceeds of which will be for the Royal British Legion.

24/27 Website report:

The website report had been circulated with the agenda. As the new Website Accessibility Guidelines have now been published on the site, the Council gave permission for the old accessibility guidelines to be removed.

24/28 20mph speed restriction on the A683 through Casterton:

A paper from Mr Terry Simpkin had been circulated and the Council records thanks for this research. There is very little evidence of speeding through the village, and a very low level of (non-injury) accidents. The Police will continue to monitor.

It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson for advice as to how the Council could proceed, given there are strong feelings against such a limit being introduced.

24/29 Dangerous trees:

A small group of volunteers examined a sample of roadside trees in several Casterton lanes. Heavy growth of ivy made inspection difficult (and will not help the trees) and a re-inspection to judge the extent of ash dieback will be undertaken in the spring. Two particular trees on Chapel House Lane which gave cause for concern were reported to Westmorland & Furness Council, who have checked them out and decided they present no immediate danger to road users.

24/30 Village Hall representative:

Councillor Humphris was appointed.

24/31 Rights of Way Officer:

The was deferred until the next meeting.

24/32 Verges in the village:

This will be considered more fully at the next meeting.

24/33 CANS (Councils Against Noise and Speed):

The Chairman said that there had been no meetings of this group for a while but that he would continue to represent the Council as and when appropriate.

24/34 Correspondence: None.

24/35 Date of the next meeting:

***Thursday 2nd May 2024 at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Casterton.
(This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting)***

24/36 Agenda items for the next meeting:

Dates for meetings 2024-25 – To consider dates.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed:

Dated: