

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Ken Humphris (Chairman), Stephen Evans and Rob Leese, five members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Steve Richmond.

PART 1

25/19 Public participation: None.

25/20 Requests for Dispensations: None.

25/21 Declarations of Interest:

Councillor Humphris declared an interest should 'The Pheasant' be discussed.

25/21 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2025, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25/22 Updates/Councillor's announcements:

- a. An interview had been held prior to this meeting, of a prospective new Councillor, who had volunteered for cooption and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting to formally co-opt him to this Council.
- b. V E Day 8th May: there had been no interest shown in organising an event for this occasion.
- c. War Memorial. Repairs had been carried out and paid for and the Parish Council does not owe anything.
- d. The Chairman had met with the new Head Teacher at Casterton School, who is friendly and approachable, so it is hoped that the Council will work together with the school in future.
- e. The notice board adjacent to the crossroads has received some maintenance work and an invoice will be presented at the next meeting.

25/23 Casterton Community Trust:

Councillor Leese reported on his attendance at the recent meeting of Casterton Community Trust. It was resolved to nominate Councillor Leese as the Founder Trustee, representing the Parish Council. Should he not be able to attend a meeting, then the Council would appoint another Councillor to attend that particular meeting. The Clerk will notify the Trust Secretary of this decision in writing

25/24 Finance:

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

Casterton Village Hall	£18.00	Hire of hall
Casterton Village Hall	£94.50	Hire of hall

Rob Leese	£36.00	Reimbursement for printing costs
Ken Humphris	£9.99	Reimbursement for stationery costs
CALC	£180.60	Annual subscription
Westmorland & Furness Council	£565.34	Litter bin emptying
Ian Hodge	£84.00	Village Plan expenses (SOFTWARE)
K M Price	£153.24	Quarterly expenses to 31 st March, Including use of home office and travel.

The Interim Accounts for 2024-25 will be circulated to Councillors before the next meeting, when they will be formally presented and adopted.

The Clerk said that, at present, Westmorland & Furness Council is not actively following up the deadline for using the CIL money, but clearly it needs to be used in the near future.

Several suggestions had been put forward and were on the agenda but none were deemed possible or suitable, some being the responsibility of other bodies. A further discussion was deferred to a later meeting.

25/25 Planning:

The following were noted:

S/05/1A Old School, Casterton. Householder planning permission for replacement of existing wooden framed windows and doors with uPVC windows and doors (retrospective). No objections made.

S/05/8A/PIP Land at Newlands, High Casterton. Application for permission in principle for the construction of a single dwelling. The Council offered no objections to this, with a small number of caveats, but the application was refused.

S/05/70 Langthwaite, Casterton. Householder planning permission for erection of detached double garage, together with installation of solar panels to the southern roof slope. The Council had been unhappy at the removal of trees at this site, and suggested new planting should be made a condition. The applicant amended the application, the Council gave their support and the application was granted.

25/26 Website:

A report on the website had been received from Sally Hodge and this had been circulated. the Council continues to be grateful for all the work carried out on the website.

It was agreed that details of the Powers and Duties of Parish Councils should be available on the website to inform residents. A preliminary document had been created by the Chairman, based on the CALC guidelines, but it was felt this was too formal. Councillor Leese and the Clerk will look into what documents are available, and develop a more friendly version.

25/27 Parish Lighting:

Correspondence was noted from form Westmorland & Furness Council asking if the Parish Council wishes to pass over the ownership and maintenance, and running costs of street lighting to Westmorland & Furness council. This was agreed, and the Clerk will respond accordingly

25/28 Reports: None.

25/29 Village Plan:

Councillor Leese said more than 20 responses had been received to the initial letter at the end of February, and the suggestions made will be incorporated in the detailed questionnaire; before the end of April all Households will receive a letter explaining how to complete the questionnaire online, but a paper version will be available to those who cannot, or refer not to, use the website. The aim is to get as many responses as possible, ideally from all adults (not just one per household) so as to guide the next phase of the Plan.

25/30 'Save the Pheasant':

Councillor Humphris said there was nothing to report. The planning application, submitted in October 2024, has still not been decided upon by the Planning Officer, and is not on the YDNPA planning agenda for their April meeting. The Pheasant remains open as before.

25/31 Footpaths Officer:

Councillor Evans said that the footpath from the Casterton Hall to Laitha Lane should be re-routed, but the owner of the adjacent field needs to be identified. He will investigate further over the Easter period and report back to the next meeting.

YDNPA has agreed part funding for the suggested signs, which will clarify the best route between Casterton and Kirkby Lonsdale. The parish council will pay the remainder. the signs are on order.

25/32 Maintenance of Village Green:

There is nothing to report but it is hoped that, with extra maintenance, things will improve and a further report will be given at the next meeting.

25/33 Cumbria Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Pledge:

This is being set up to provide an opportunity for liaison with the Police, now they are unable to attend Parish Council meetings. It is anticipated that there will be two meetings each year, by ZOOM, and Councillors Humphris and Leese were appointed as the Council's representatives.

25/34 Asset Register:

This needs to be updated by 1st June, when the insurance can also be updated. The street lights could be removed from it, assuming the proposals from Westmorland & Furness Council come to fruition. There may be small parcels of land which were handed over to the Council many years ago. The clerk will forward a Westmorland & Furness Council contact to the Chairman to explore this.

25/35 Correspondence: None.

25/36 Date of the next meeting:

***Tuesday 20th May 2025 at 7pm at Casterton Village Hall
(This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting).***

The Clerk to remind other village institutions of their opportunity to give a brief report

25/37 Resolution:

A Resolution to exclude members of the public, due to confidential nature of the following item, was agreed.

The public part of the meeting closed at 8.05pm

PART 2

25/38 Clerk's working hours:

Due to his very heavy workload over the past 12 months, it was resolved to increase the Clerk's working hours by one hour per week, initially for a 12 month period, backdated to 1st January 2025, with a review after 30th June 2025. The greater than usual amount of correspondence to deal with has been excessive and stressful.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed:

Dated: