

Casterton Community Trust



– managing solar-generated income

DRAFT Minutes of the Casterton Community Trust Annual General Meeting, 29th April 2025

Those present:

Trustees: Peter Daniels (Chairman), Iain Goss (Secretary), Sandy Talbor (Treasurer), Jill Humphris, Marjorie Murray, Chris Benson, Rob Leese (CPC representative).

Village residents: Carol McDonald, Lois Howard, Gill Sykes, Simon Drakeford, Sally Hodge, Ann Kyne, Joan Martin, Andrea Sharp, Pam Daniels, John Hayward, Annette Hayward, Richard Murray.

Apologies: Lisa Lodge, Laura Bridger, Steve Mallett, Di Moore (*all village residents*)

The Chairman welcomed all those attending the meeting.

Approval of 2024 AGM minutes: The minutes were approved and signed.

Annual report: The Chairman read out the Annual Report, a copy of which had previously been distributed to those present.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT. 29th April 2025

In the past year three grant applications were received and approved:

Refurbishment of the Milestone (which really does look good)

Christmas Memory Tree Gathering

(held at the Pheasant and was very well supported)

New lighting at the Village Hall

(making it safer in the winter months for access)

Although not recognised as an application, I would like to thank Chris Benson for donating and planting bulbs in recognition of Eve Beresford.

All the above greatly benefitting the Village both aesthetically and socially.

We had a productive meeting with Andrea Huxley (Cumbria Voluntary Services) covering all aspects of managing a Trust and one of her main points was regarding insurance cover for Trustees and this will be actioned in the coming year

Three Trustees reach the end of their term of office at this AGM and all agreed to stand for re-election. As no other applications were received, we do not require a ballot and all three Trustees will duly be re-elected at the meeting following the AGM. We would like to thank them greatly for their help in the past 3 years.

I would like to thank everyone for their efforts in helping to move the Trust forward and also nice to note that we will have a full compliment of Trustees for the coming year.

Financial report and accounts: The financial report, *copies distributed to those present*, was read by the Treasurer.

Current account

Balance brought forward 30/04/2024	£4,408.70
<u>Income</u>	
Feed-in tariff from School	<u>2,284.44</u>
	6693.14
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Grants – Xmas memory tree switch-on	207.54
lighting for Village Hall steps	<u>492.00</u>
	699.54
hire oof Village Hall 2024/25	<u>95.50</u>
Total expenditure	<u>795.04</u>
Balance carried forward 29/04/25	<u>£5,898.10</u>

Savings account

Balance brought forward 30/04/2024	£10,044.58
Interest received	<u>351.34</u>
Balance carried forward 29/04/25	<u>£10,395.92</u>

Appointment of new trustees: two trustees, Sandy Talbot & Marjorie Murray retired by rotation, and one co-optee. Chris Benson. Being eligible for re-election and willing, in the absence of other nominees, all were reappointed without a vote.

AOB: a question for the AGM was notified to the Secretary.

“As a beneficiary of the Casterton Community Trust, what should be the relationship between Casterton Parish Council and Casterton Community Trust.”

It was explained that this was under discussion by the Trustees, especially since general advice has been given to all Councils by the Charity Commission that they had had numerous cases of breaches of the law in this regards reported to them.

An enquiry about scaffolding seen around the School’s solar panels drew attention to concern about the costs of their maintenance.

It was explained that maintenance costs were deducted from the feed-back tariff, before calculating the amount due to the Community Trust.

Andrea Sharp asked the trustees to see investigate possible higher rates of interest available elsewhere.

The treasurer agreed to do so.

Other questions involved issues which were beyond the Trust’s remit, and were referable to the Parish Council.

The secretary said that there were some misconceptions as to what the Trust did, and pointed out that the Trust is merely a funding body.

The chairman asked those attending whether they might have ideas to benefit the village which the Trust might help fund. Chris Benson suggested that environmental projects, might be a fruitful source for consideration.

There being no further questions relevant to the Trust, the Chairman thanked the attendees for giving their time and closed the meeting.