

Casterton Community Trust



– managing solar-generated income

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Trustees held on 29th April 2025

Present: Peter Daniels *PD* (Chairman), Iain Goss *IG* (Secretary), Sandy Talbor *ST* (Treasurer), Jill Humphris *JH*, Marjorie Murray *MM*, Chris Benson *CB*, Rob Leese *RS* (CPC representative).

Apologies: none.

New CPC representative: The clerk to the CPC informed us that Rob Leese was appointed to be their representative, replacing Steve .

Minutes of the previous meeting: the minutes were unanimously approved, and signed by the chairman.

Treasurer's report: It was reported that we had received £1523.53 today from the School for our share of the Solar panels feed-in tariff. The current account stands at £6,693.14 and the 95 day deposit at £10,044.58. A grant payments of £492.00 for lighting on the lower steps of the Village Hall, and £95.50 for hire of the Village Hall for the past year. It was resolved that JH should become the third cheque signatory.

Proposal for evaluation of grant applications *carried over from previous meeting (agenda items 4 & 5):*

The proposal put before the trustees by MM at the meeting of 27th February, 2025, together with another version from JH were considered. Taking into account Charity Commission advice, and an agreement that the wording of both the *Grant Application Form* and accompanying *FAQs* should be kept simple and avoid words and expressions which may deter some prospective applicants, the proposals were given line by line examinations. After alteration and minor correction, it was resolved that MM and JH would collaborate to produce a single version to put before the trustees for approval at the next meeting.

It was further agreed that the documents should be kept under scrutiny as an evolving process. A points system, as audit trail for scoring Grant Applications, was rejected as being too subjective, in favour of a simpler yes, no or n/a, against a set list of funding criteria.

Founder Trustee representation: RL was asked to take back to the Parish Council, a proposal that a gentlemen's agreement between the CPC and CCT should be enacted, such that should their nominated representative be unable to attend a CCT trustees meeting, no substitution would be made.

This should resolve the continuity problem of 2024/25 year, when four different councillors attended the five CCT meetings.

Legal advice re Trust Deed: MM proposed that a chance encounter with a senior law lecturer at Cumbria University, with expertise in Trust Law, be considered as a point of contact for free advice in respect of the Trust Deed, which he would then be able to use for student training. MM was advised to contact him after consideration by the other trustees. He would, however, be unable to do anything before the beginning of the next academic year.

Grant applications: There were no new applications since the previous meeting. A minor problem with paying for the milestone renovation, has arisen, Simon Drakeford agreed to put a solution to the Milestone Society.

AOB: It was suggested that we needed better grant application advertising exposure. More and better use of notice boards, Whatsap, the website, etc. were suggested. MM to give some thought to this.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th October, 2025 at 19:30, in Village Hall.
Last day for submitting Grant Applications - Wednesday 1st October 2025.