

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 9th June 2025 at 8.20 pm.

(This meeting had been called for 20th May 2025 but was postponed as it would have been inquorate)

Present were Councillors Ken Humphris (Chairman), Stephen Evans, Rob Leese and Steve Richmond, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson, ten members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

25/39 Requests for Dispensations: None.

25/40 Declarations of Interest:

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

25/41 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2025, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25/42 Co-option of new Councillor:

It was resolved that Ray Smith should be co-opted to the Parish Council. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

25/43 Updates/Councillor announcements:

There is to be a virtual session via MS Teams on Standards of Conduct for Elected Members in Town and Parish Councils. This will be facilitated by Beth Evans, Governance Training and Consultancy Ltd on Thursday 3rd July from 6 to 7.30pm. This training will be open to all Town and Parish Councillors across Westmorland and Furness. Councillor Richmond hopes to attend.

25/44 Casterton Community Trust:

Councillor Leese reported on the recent meeting of the Trust and the discussion regarding a substitute for the usual representative from the Parish Council, should that Councillor be unable to attend. Councillor Hodgson said that it was usually recommended that two people were nominated as Parish Council representatives so that there would be at least one in attendance for continuity. It was agreed to float this idea with the Trust, the fallback being the Council's view, namely that the Trust Deed should be adhered to, as originally understood.

25/45 Cumbria Constabulary Policy Pledge:

Councillor Humphris reported that there has been a poor response to the Policing Pledge, the purposed of which was for the Police to keep in touch with Parish Councils, now that regular attendance at meetings is not possible. Councillor Ray Smith was appointed as this Council's point of contact.

25/46 Recording of Parish Council meetings:

A possible 'retention and disposal policy was discussed, in order to assist in any recording of meetings, for which the Council already has a Policy in place. The Clerk will ask CALC if any retention policy would cover audio material and if a dedicated device should be used for recording.

25/47 Finance:

a. Payment of the following accounts was agreed:

Westmorland & Furness Council

	£555.36	Litter bin emptying
Ian Hodge	£84.00	Reimbursement – Village Plan
Ken Humphris	£118.80	Reimbursement – Village Plan
Ken Humphris	£33.00	

Reimbursement - painting Parish Council notice board

Zurich Municipal	£430.60	Insurance premium
K M Price	£254.26	Back pay (as agreed at the last meeting)

- b. The Interim Accounts for 2024-25 were noted.
- c. The Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the Declaration of Exemption from External Audit, the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements.

25/48 Planning:

S/05/61B Skirden Barn, Casterton. Change of use of "The Piggery" barn and adjacent agricultural land to domestic use as an out-building garden room (to be used for domestic storage/out-building) and a domestic garden area and erection of new boundary walls.

(The Council had already submitted comments, recommending approval)

25/49 Website:

- a. A report from Sally Hodge was received with thanks.
- b. Councillors Humphris and Lees had discussed this and had put together a document on 'retention of Council material' for possible adoption. The Clerk agreed to run this past CALC for advice.

25/50 Village Plan:

The team is well established now. Consultation with the village led to a questionnaire being issued and this has now closed. 90 digital responses and six paper copies had been received. These will now be analysed and a public presentation arranged in due course.

25/51 Casterton Community Hub Ltd ('Save the Pheasant'):

A full report had been presented to the Parish Meeting.

The planning application in respect of the Pheasant has still not been decided upon; it is hoped this might take place in July.

25/52 Footpaths Officer:

- a. It was noted that new fingerposts have recently been added, the cost being shared by YDNPA and the Parish Council. Three additional signs are on order.
- b. Councillor Evans said that the owner of the land in question, that could be part of a new footpath walking route to Kirkby Lonsdale, was not yet known. Enquiries will continue to be made.

25/53 Asset Register:

The Clerk has made a start on this and it will be considered further at the next meeting. The insurance policy needs to be checked in order to ensure that cover is appropriate.

25/54 Correspondence: None.

25/55 Date of the next meeting:

***Thursday 21st August 2025 at 7pm at Casterton Village Hall
(Please note change of date)***

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed:

Dated: