

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Tuesday 30th September 2025 at 7pm.

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

25/72 Public participation:

Mrs Claire Wildsmith addressed the Council on the condition of the Riddings Wood footpath, having sent photographs and details to the Clerk in advance. Correspondence back in 2016-17 with YDNPA (Steve Hastie) had brought the response that there was no money available at that time to repairs/renovate this path. When the 2019-24 Yorkshire Dales Management Plan had been published, a further approach had been made and at that time the relevant landowners were to be contacted.

Councillor Richmond agreed to inspect the path under the auspices of the Village Plan, currently in production, and report back.

25/73 Requests for Dispensations: None.

25/74 Declarations of Interest:

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

25/75 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2025, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

25/76 Updates/Councillor's announcements:

- a. Mobile signal – nothing further heard as yet.
- b. Road marking – the road in the centre of the village is due to be resurfaced within three months, and better road markings will be applied to improve (especially vehicle) safety. The Chairman had contacted Highways to see whether additional marking/signage could be applied to take into account both pedestrians and vehicles.
- c. Monitoring Officer. Councillor Humphris and the Clerk have arranged to have an online meeting with the Monitoring Officer's Deputy, in order to establish protocols for any future actions that may arise.
- d. Casterton 'hole'. YDNPA has displayed notices and a sturdy fence has been erected around the site, The school is obtaining costings for repair.

25/77 Recording of Parish Council meetings:

A draft document had been circulated to Councillors, with the agenda and it was resolved to adopt the proposed 'retention and disposals document, in conjunction with the Council's 'recording of meetings' policy. This will be added to the website.

25/78 Finance:

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

T Flitcroft	£100.00	Payroll administration – annual payment
Narked Design	£253/00	Website maintenance and subscription

- b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

25/79 Planning:

- a. *The following application was recommended for approval:*

S/05/70A Lengthwaite, Casterton. Householder planning permission for erection of single storey side extension with roof terrace, front open porch and two storey rear extension; together with installation of inset solar panels to roofs.

- b. It was agreed to create a Standing Order governing how to proceed with planning applications which fall between planning meetings. The proposal had been circulated by the Chairman prior to the meeting and will become one of the Council's Policies, displayed on the website
- c. The Planning Officer had recommended refusal of the planning application relating to the land east of Wandales Lane, but the application was approved by the committee.

25/80 Website:

- a. A brief report had been received from Sally Hodge and this had been circulated to Councillors.
- b. It was resolved to adopt the document (circulated) 'Powers and Duties' of the Parish Council, and to add this to the policies on the website. It was emphasised that this was a general guide for the benefit of residents and a link was given to the definitive guide to be found on the CALC website
- c. Assertion 10 – an email from CALC gave details of the compliancy requirements to be in place by the end of the current financial year, in order to address digital and data protection matters. This will continue to be an agenda item for future meetings, and an early change will be for the Clerk and Councillors to cease using private email addresses. Ian Hodge had kindly prepared a document to assist the Council and Councillor Leese agreed to ask for advice from CALC before the next meeting

25/81 Village Plan: Casterton Village Plan 2030 – Progress Update

After a successful public meeting on the 24th of September the Casterton Village Plan 2030 has been finalised and published on the web site.

The overall objective of the plan is to - *Make Casterton a greater place to live, visit and work*

The 5 year plan to achieve this has 7 themes and an initial series of potential projects as displayed in the table below. Volunteers are now being approached to progress projects over the coming months and years. If you would like to be involved, please contact the team at - villageplan@castertonvillage.org

Theme	Projects (Additional projects may be added as implementation of the plan progresses)
1 - Road Safety	Improving safety on A683 – calming initiatives
	New / improved foot paths
	Communication about safer walking routes
2 - Highways and Transport	Review the safety of overhead cables
	Road names
	Casterton volunteer driving scheme
	Kendal bus stops in Casterton
3 - Environment & Wildlife	Bench on way to Brownthwaite Pike
	Dog poo bins review
	Village Green maintenance and improvement / safe usage
4 - Footpaths	Footpaths around village hall, lighting and gritting
	Communication about responsibility for current footpaths
	Public Rights of Way
5 - Resilience	Produce a village resilience plan including use of village hall as central support point
6 - Communications	Communication re road repairs
	Initiative to promote local businesses
	Formalise and increase the use of the current 'Village WhatsApp group'
	Improve community understanding about the role of the Parish Council
7 – Events	Community litter pick
	Community garden
	Running group
	Chess group
	Cycling group
	Walking group
	Craft group
	Tennis
	Darts team
	Beer festival
	Coffee mornings in village hall
	Annual village fair
	Village history board on village green or QR codes on interesting locations

25/82 Casterton Community Hub Ltd (Save the Pheasant):

It is believed that the Pheasant has recently been purchased as a going concern but nothing official is known at the present time.

25/83 Footpaths Office: No Report.

25/84 Asset Register: No report required.

25/85 Correspondence:

- a. A request to place a safety mirror on the Village Green has been investigated. It was agreed to draw up a document to indemnify the Council should any claims arise from this and Councillor Leese, who has met with the applicants, agreed to discuss this with the residents concerned.
- b. Reports from Westmorland & Furness Councillors. The Clerk will contact Councillor Hodgson, thanking her for her attendance and regular input to the Council; and to ask if a concise report could be sent to the Council prior to each meeting.
- c. Four complaints from residents had been submitted to the Monitoring Officer at Westmorland & Furness Council relating to the postponement of the Annual Parish Meeting in March 2025. These had been investigated and found in the Council's favour.

25/86 Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 25th November 2025 at 7pm at Casterton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed:

Dated: