

Casterton Community Trust



– managing solar-generated income

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on 14th January, 2026 in Casterton Village Hall at 1930hrs

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

Apologies: none

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of 8th October, 2025: The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of interest: *JH* (as trustee) and *ST* (as member) declared an interest in the Grant application to be discussed under item 6 on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report: *ST* reported that the bank accounts on this day stood at:

Deposit a/c	10,653.52
Current a/c	5,798.10
	<u>£16,451.62</u>

The interest rate on the deposit account reduces to 2.47% from April, 2026

Trustee insurance – the Village Hall has given us a copy of their risk assessment.

Following a call to *Zurich*, the requirement for audit by a qualified accountant may be dropped.

It was resolved that *ST* would have authority to spend up to £150 for the purchase of a policy.

Revised Grant Applications system:

1. The trustees were all satisfied with the grant application approval process wording.
2. The trustees were all satisfied with the grant application form wording.

The Trustees agreed to try to increase CCT exposure by uploading more information and news stories to the Village website.

MM was asked to see if it would be possible to include a direct sub-search button to CCT on the Village website.

Grant Applications:

1. The secretary reported the receipt of a grant application, copy already emailed to the Trustees, from Angela Bentley, treasurer of the **Casterton WI**, who wanted to purchase a “sumup” bank card machine to enable acceptance of card payments, since many people no longer carry cash.

After the other Trustees had asked the two WI members questions what they felt appropriate, *JH* and *ST* withdrew to facilitate discussion by the remaining Trustees.

Although the application was only for the small sum of £30, it prompted a detailed discussion of principle, leading the Trustees to the conclusion that the WI should be both expected and capable of funding this sum from their own funds.

The Trustees unanimously voted to refuse the grant, and the secretary was asked to convey the decision to the applicant.

2. *PD* & *CB* here declared an interest and were non voting.

The Trustees were unanimous in formally approving the cost of £39.99 for additional Christmas Tree lights for the “big switch on”, It was noted that *PD* had gifted the tree, and *CB* had made and gifted the top star for it, (this had informally been pre-accepted by those Trustees with no interest in the project).

Review of Trust Deed: *MM* reported that she had had an email exchange with Dr. Fiona Boyle from Cumbria University, who said: “I have had a look at your website, and what the Trust is doing is very impressive.”

Dr. Boyle suggested that Cumbria University Law Faculty would be able to offer guidance on Trustees’ responsibilities, and suggest minor alterations to update the Trust Deed.

RL suggested that the Trustees should provide some examples of possible changes they might wish to make.

The Trustees were unanimous in their decision to allow *MM* to proceed to making arrangements with the Law Faculty.

Advertising and posters: Consideration was given to arranging an “open day.” *PD*, *CB* & *RL* were tasked with the development of posters and an advertising strategy for it, including possibly a ‘powerpoint’ presentation.

Appraisal of CCT: This was passed over because it had been discussed within “Review of Trust Deed” above.

Election of Trustees: None of the Trustees are due for re-election, so there will not need to be an election this year.

A.O.B: none.

Date of AGM: The proposed date for the AGM was set as 7th May, 2026 at 19:00hrs in the Village Hall.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 12th March, 2026 at 19:00hrs* in the Village Hall. Deadline for submitting grant applications, Tuesday 24th February, 2026.

* Date changed at the chairman’s request from 3rd March, 2026, as originally set.