

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7pm.

Present were Councillors Ken Humphris, Stephen Evans, Rob Leese, Steve Richmond and Ray Smith, four members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

26/28 Public participation:

The following questions were asked:

- a. Why is the Casterton Neighbours annual telephone subscription still being paid, despite a minute passed in 2022 cancelling this. The Council has paid for the telephone helpline since its inception and is willing in principle to continue.
- b. A list of maintenance issues was handed to the Clerk and this is shown at the end of these minutes.
- c. Why are the financial transactions relating to the Casterton Community Hub not in the public domain? As this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, the Chairman suggested the speaker should contact one of the Officers of the Hub.
- d. Can the correspondence relating to Wandales Lane/Gates Heads Brow cross-roads be made available? (this matter had been raised at several recent Council meetings). The Clerk explained that correspondence relating to more than a year ago is not retained, in accordance with the Council's Retention and Disposals Policy. A request from another member of the public had been received since the last meeting and has been answered in a similar manner.
- e. What has been done about the 20mph speed limit on A683? The Chairman replied that advice had been sought from Westmorland & Furness Council and our district Councillor, and the matter would be debated at a future meeting.

26/29 Requests for Dispensations: None.

26/30 Declarations of Interest:

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

26/31 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2026, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

26/32 Updates/Councillor announcements:

- a. Councillor Smith is now the Council's 'Highways Coordinator' and there will be a place on the agenda at each meeting for updates to be given.
- b. Councillor Smith reported on his recent attendance at the Respect meeting. Casterton parish had only been minimally affected, by this year's Appleby Horse Fair, as had Barbon, but there were a number of issues, some more serious, at Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh.

26/33 Casterton Community Trust:

Councillor Leese reported on his attendance at the recent meeting of the Trust. There had been two applications for funding, one had been granted, one declined.

26/34 Casterton Community Hub:

The Clerk read a statement from Simon Drakeford, outlining the present position: The Casterton Community Hub is reported as being Dormant since the year ended 31st December 2025. It currently holds £2 in the bank. There was no income in the year ended 31st March 2026. Total costs in the year ended 31st March 2026 were £9, the cost of hiring the Village Hall. It was agreed to maintain the company as dormant during the year ended 31st March 2027 rather than deregistering it. The purpose of this is to continue to monitor the ongoing success of the 'new' Pheasant. It is likely that with this continued success, the Casterton Community Hub will no longer be necessary and the company will be deregistered.'

26/35 Casterton Village Hall:

Councillor Humphris reported on the ongoing success of the Village Hall, which remains a valued village hub for social events, entertainment, and hobby groups. . The past year had been reviewed at the AGM in May. There had been a slight increase in bookings and a small surplus was made for the year. A Boon Day is planned for 29th July at 9.30am when small jobs inside the hall and garden will be tidied up. Any resident is welcome to turn up and help.

A question was asked as to why the minutes are not available on the website. The Chairman said he believed the reason was historical and said he would raise the question at the next full committee meeting

26/36 Highways:

- a. A683 re-surfacing; this is breaking up, only a few months after being laid. The Chairman has approached Westmorland & Furness Council but so far has not received a response.
- b. Vandalism on Gates Heads Brow was noted, the day following the last Council meeting. This has been reported to Westmorland & Furness Council and to the local police

26/37 Finance:

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

Duncan Hamlett	£50.00	Internal Audit – honorarium
Ken Humphris	£206.69.	Payment for stainless steel plaques for signposts (Village Plan footpaths group)
K M Price	TBA	Quarterly expenses to 30 th June, Including use of home office and travel.

b. *As a grant had not been available from the Community Trust it was resolved to fund the following items as part of the Village Resilience Plan Group to re-launch the Casterton Neighbours Scheme:*

Seven High Visibility vests purchased from Amazon @ GBP9.99 each = £69.93

Seven re-chargable lanterns purchased from Amazon @ GBP11.89 each = £83.23

Leaflet reprinting (est. 230 leaflets) = £130

Total £283.16

- c. The cash and budget statements were noted.
- d. The report from the Internal Auditor was received with thanks.
- e. It was considered how much the Council would be prepared to contribute 'no footway' signs on the A683 through the village and it was resolved to ask Westmorland & Furness Council what the total cost is likely to be. A decision could then be taken.

26/38 Planning:

- a. There were no new applications.
- b. A proposed submission to the Planning Inspector to dismiss the appeal for up to nine new dwellings on North Heads Lane had been circulated to Councillors and it was agreed this should be submitted before the deadline of 14th July.
- c. It was noted that the Appeal against the refusal for 2 dwellings on the east side of North Heads Lane had been dismissed by the Planning Inspector

26/39 Westmorland & Furness Councillors: None.

26/40 Website:

- a. Sally Hodge had reported that 2025-26 financial documents added to the website. News story about new grants scheme for rural businesses added.
- b. This Council appears to be largely compliant with 'Assertion 10' and all Councillors are using their new email addresses. It is realised that, in due course, they will need to use a 'gov.uk address and the Clerk will ask Sally Hodge how the present system can be 'migrated' to the new.

26/41 Correspondence: None.

26/42 Date of the next meeting:

Thursday 3rd September 2026 at 7pm at Casterton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed:

DRAFT

Dated:

Outstanding Issues of Village Maintenance

What is being done to address them?

1. Folly Lane/Wandales Lane Crossroads. Erosion and Hole. Inadequate safety warnings
2. Well Lane Hill. Flooding from previous inadequate ditch repair causing flooding and hazardous icing in winter.
3. Gateshead Brow. Dangerous use of illicit tarmac making the junction unsafe for motorists, cyclists, pony riders and pedestrians.
4. North Heads Lane. Ash Tree which is unsafe because of dying branches overhanging the lane.
5. Colliers Lane junction with A683 damaged road name sign
6. All signpost and road signs need cleaning
7. 7. Pot holes, potholes, potholes!
8. Drain clearing
9. Mess at Lane End crossroads
10. Muddy and slippery access to litter bin, postbox, and newspaper box and not to mention the inappropriate siting of the litter bin and the stench which emanates from it!