

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Monday 21st November 2016, at 2pm.

Present were Councillors Enid Hastings (Chairman), Ken Humphris, Jean Loble, and Kevin Talbot, District Councillor Kevin Lancaster, PCSO Mandy Coleman, one member of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Bye, District Councillor Mel Mackie and County and District Councillor Nick Cotton.

16/103 Public participation: None.

16/104 Requests for Dispensations: None.

16/105 Declarations of Interest:

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

16/106 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2016, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman, with a small amendment in minute 16/95b - it should be stated that Councillor Stan Collins is the Chairman of the Highways and Transportation Working Group, which is part of CCC's South Lakeland Local Committee.

16/107 County and District matters:

Councillor Lancaster said that Ian McPherson's position as representative for Casterton parish on the YDNPA may change but that he is grateful for the minutes and agendas being sent to him.

16/108 Police Report:

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Mandy Coleman to the meeting. The Police Report had also been emailed to the Clerk, who agreed to circulate it to Councillors. Volunteers are being sought to assist with cross-border crime prevention and anyone interested should contact Police, either by email or on 101.

16/109 Chairman and Councillor's announcements:

- a. Three Councillors attended the CALC AGM held on Saturday 12th November Castle Green Hotel, Kendal. There was a good attendance of around 50 parish representatives and the guest speaker was John Connell, Head of Community Policy at the Department for Communities and Local Government. There were lots of comments and questions from the floor, followed by the core business of electing Officers and five members of the Executive Committee. The AGM approved a recommendation that affiliation fees for 2017/18 should go up by 2%. An interesting busy morning gave opportunities to meet and exchange views with other Councillors and Officers.

- b. The CALC District Association meeting is Thursday 24th November at Gilpin Bridge at 7pm. CCC hosts this meeting each year and there will be a presentation on area planning by CCC Area Manager, Karen Johnson, and on Highways by CCC Highways Manager, Nick Raymond.
- c. The Council's contractor is currently cleaning out drains in the parish.
- d. Lunesdale Rotary Club are supporting the campaign 'purple4polio' to help eradicate polio from the world. There is no cure; immunisation programmes are essential to prevent children contacting the disease. To date, polio cases across the world have reduced by 99.9%. Purple crocus bulbs have been given to Kirkby Lonsdale and Casterton to plant in a suitable 'green area', the colour purple being chosen as a symbolic reminder that a purple dye is used to mark the finger of a child who has been immunised. Crocuses have been planted in the Jubilee field in Kirkby Lonsdale and around the seat and table in Casterton Village Green. The flowers will make a lovely show when they flower next Spring and every year afterwards, and continue to remind us polio still exists.
- e. The Clerk brought correspondence on behalf of B4RN at Melling for a wayleave to take ducting under the wall by the ENW pole on the Village Green around to The Terrace. It was agreed to grant this wayleave.

16/110 Reports:

a. **Public Rights of Way:** None.

b. **Highways:**

Councillors discussed the serious safety concerns they have with three Highway issues.

The first, the ongoing serious flooding on Wandales Lane which has continued to get worse since 2009 despite a new soak away being installed, The road is permanently wet for a half-mile stretch and when the temperature drops the lane becomes a sheet of ice and is extremely dangerous. There has already been an accident when a vehicle skidded on the ice and collided with a stone wall.

The second, on the A683, water continues to pour from two BT manhole covers opposite Kerfoot Cottage, and 'snake' its way down to Devil's Bridge. When this water freezes, the road becomes a sheet of ice; there has already been an accident here last winter. The repairs carried out in 2011-12 have not been successful

The third, since the lanes in the parish were chipped and tarred, the 'SLOW' markings at the junction of Colliers Lane and North Heads Lane have not been reinstated. This is a blind junction and vehicles are not stopping because the slow signs have not been replaced - an accident is very likely.

All these issues have been reported numerous times to Highways

The Clerk agreed to report these serious safety concerns of the Council to Nick Raymond at CCC Highways, with a copy to Councillor Stan Collins (with photographic evidence).

District Councillor Lancaster reported that the road surface at the four lane ends (on the border of Barbon parish) requires serious attention.

c. **Village Hall:** Nothing to report

16/111 Street lights:

The Chairman reported that all the existing street lights have now been upgraded and are working well, but the new pole and lantern at Croft House has still no electrical connection. After a recent site visit with the Area Manager from ENW, various options are to be considered and a road closure will be required.

The relevant persons have been contacted to confirm the road closure permit already granted is still valid. ENW agreed to do the work, after the work by the contractor appointed by Casterton Parish was wrongly stopped by CCC in January 2016. Almost another year has passed and the Council is very concerned with the continuing delay especially as all the money to complete this work was raised by grant funding. The lane is now very dark after 4pm and is frequently used by elderly residents and others accessing the church and the school car park. Vehicles leaving the A683 by the War Memorial cannot easily see pedestrians on the road, which was the main reason to site the new light there - to increase the safety of the area.

It was resolved to write to ENW's Chief Executive, expressing the serious safety concerns of the Council with the lack of lighting and detailing the progress so far with a copy to the Chief Constable of Cumbria Police, requesting this matter to be communicated to the local policing team.

16/112 Survey of drains etc:

The drains have all now been identified on the map provided by CCC Highways, which the Chairman will deliver to the Kendal office later this week. It was agreed a copy of this plan be made available for the Council to keep.

16/113 Community Defibrillators:

A decision is to be made on the former BT kiosks on 19th December, and all bodies are aware of the Council's interest in adopting a kiosk for a parish defibrillator (minute 16/98 refers).

16/114 War Memorials:

A letter was read from Gill Sykes, Secretary to the District Church Council, regarding a free standing bronze plaque proposed to record the names on the war memorial. The DCC suggested incised slabs could be fitted to each face of the memorial and also expressed concern about the safety of the location, suggesting it should be moved back on to church land.

The Parish Council have had the War Memorial examined by a Stone Mason, whose expert advice was not to drill or attach anything to the sandstone nor to attempt to move it. His recommendation was to record the names on a separate bronze plaque.

As the DCC believes the memorial is in shared ownership between the Church and the Council, and is not in agreement with this expert advice then the Council are happy to hand over full ownership at zero cost to the DCC for them to proceed as they think best and have full responsibility for its maintenance and insurance in future. The Council resolved to respond to the letter from the DCC.

16/115 Yorkshire Dales National Park Authorities:

Councillor Humphris reported the YDNPA have requested the Council's views on joining the National Park Parish Forum and if so, which option would be our preferred choice. The Council agreed to join and preferred the option to create a separate round of meetings for the Western Parishes; In addition, suggesting that this Western area should include Garsdale, Dent and Sedbergh as to mirror the Ranger area. Councillor Humphris agreed to talk to Julie Payne to get some background and the Clerk will make a formal reply.

It was resolved that all Councillors will meet Steve Hastie, Park Ranger, to consider the proposed new sign for the entrance to the Park.

16/116 Finance:

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

TRBL	£25.00	Donation for Remembrance poppy wreath
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b. The monthly cash and budget statements were noted.

c. After consideration of the Budget Report prepared by the Clerk, it was resolved that this Council makes a Precept upon South Lakeland District Council in the sum of £9,653.00 for the financial year 2017-18. There is therefore no increase in the amount levied. The Vice-Chairman and one other Councillor were given authority to sign the Precept forms once they are issued by SLDC in December.

d. It was agreed to respond to the consultation on a possible Referendum where significant increases in precept are proposed. This Council objects to any changes in the present arrangement, which has obtained since 1974, whereby Parish and Town Councils are able to set their precepts, bearing in mind local needs, without limitation. The suggested letter from LALC will be used.

16/117 Planning:

There were no current planning matters to consider. However, an application had been received too late to be an agenda item and it was resolved that the Clerk will respond, using his delegated authority.

16/118 Future agenda items:

- a. Resilience Plan - the Clerk will circulate details of Burneside Parish Council's original plan.
- b. It was agreed to invite Steve Hastie, Park Ranger, to attend the February meeting of the Council and the Clerk will formally invite him.

Agenda items can also be sent to the Clerk up to 14 days prior to any meeting.

16/119 Dates for 2017 meeting:

The following dates were agreed for meetings in 2017:

<i>Monday 23rd January</i>	<i>2pm</i>	
<i>Monday 27th February</i>	<i>2pm</i>	
<i>Monday 27th March</i>	<i>2pm</i>	
<i>Wednesday 31st May</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>	<i>Annual Meeting</i>
<i>Wednesday 28th June</i>	<i>7.30pm</i>	
<i>Monday 31st July</i>	<i>2pm</i>	
<i>Monday 4th September</i>	<i>2pm</i>	
<i>Monday 2nd October</i>	<i>2pm</i>	
<i>Monday 13th November</i>	<i>2pm</i>	

The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting will be held on Thursday 13th April at 7pm - this is not a Council Meeting.

The meeting closed at 4pm.

Signed:

Dated: