

**CASTLE CARROCK & GELTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING, 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011**  
**7pm**

**Present:** George Devereux (Chairman), David Low (Vice Chairman), Derek Knight, David Rawsthorn, Richard Johnstone

**In attendance:** Brian Edmundson (Internal Auditor) Tricia Meynell (Clerk), Cllr.Doreen Parsons, Cllr. Nick Marriner Tom Speight

**1. Apologies - None**

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting on May 11th 2011 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Agenda Items**

**a: Co-option of one Parish Councillor** – After discussion amongst all Councillors present a vote was held to decide who would become the seventh Councillor, thereby filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr. Miles – the vote went in favour of Guy Widdowson. It was noted that 2012 is an election year for Castle Carrock & Geltsdale, and the candidate who was unsuccessful in this instance would be able to stand again should they so wish.

**b: Watson Institute Annual Insurance** – It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would continue to pay this. See "Financial Matters" below

**c: Back Lonning (Rectory Rd towards Greenwell)** – It had been hoped that a meeting would take place between the landowner, the Parish Council and the footpaths officer of Carlisle City Council in order to resolve issues around the use of this lonning as a bridleway/footpath. Unfortunately this meeting was cancelled by the landowner who insists that the status is that of footpath and always has been. The parish council is in possession of documentary evidence to the contrary, namely the "George Bell Map" of 1896. The fact that it has subsequently been added to the Definitive Map as a footpath does not mean that is NOT a highway. It was suggested via written communication from the footpaths officer that evidence is collated and then presented to the County Council. He also indicated that since there is likely to be ample documentary evidence it will probably not be necessary to collect witness statements, thereby making the procedure quicker and easier. The chairman will write to the landowner once the status has been established and registered by the council explaining the situation.

**d. Broken Drain cover outside village hall** – It was brought to the attention of Cllr. Johnstone when preparing for the Music on the Marr event that a broken drain cover was a "health & safety" issue. It was covered over for the duration of the event. This led to discussion of the frequent water-logging of the grass outside the village hall when the marquee is being used – water runs from the roof of the marquee and lands on the concrete path before flowing back into the marquee. Following investigations by the Chairman and Arthur Mason, it is now clear that the drain leading from the broken cover feeds into the sewer pipe. It was also discovered that the point of the broken cover is also the head of the drain, so blocking it off completely in the event of not being able to find a suitable replacement cover might be the solution since the drain is not carrying anything other than surface water from a very small area. Quotes for either replacing the grid cover or blocking off the drain will be obtained. Another alternative would be to put a new gully in at the right height to lead water from the marquee away from the site. The Chairman of the village hall committee pointed out that the reason they use the marquee is to have somewhere covered in the event of rain, but that they can't use it effectively for that purpose since whenever it rains, the ground within the marquee becomes severely waterlogged. The treasurer of the village hall noted that specialist advice would be needed as how best to fix this problem. It was agreed that it would not be a suitable option to re-drain the land and lead surface water into an already over-burdened sewage system and that the best option would be to construct a plastic guttering system with flexible down pipes for the marquee which would lead the water onto the road and from there into the surface water drains already in existence. This will be tried out the next time the marquee is used.

**5. Correspondence.** Various items of correspondence were available for viewing. It was noted that a letter had been received from the Highlights Rural Touring Scheme thanking the parish council for its donation of £100.

**6. Financial Matters: Cheques were made out to the following:**

Parish Clerk for office expenses (cheque no. 298) £5

Watson Hall for Annual Insurance (cheque no.300) - £795

**7. Planning Matters: None**

**8. Councillor's Issues:**

**a.** It was noted that over 30 out of date posters had been removed from the notice board. Cllr. Rawsthorn agreed to monitor the board and remove posters as necessary.

**b.** Cllr.Rawsthorn noted that the persistent problem of flooding on the road opposite Tarn Lodge is not going away. Cllr Devereux added that many of the gullies in the village also needed clearing out – accordingly a list will be compiled and sent to the Highways engineer.

**c.** With regard to Broadband provision, Cllr Marriner was able to update those present: There are four preferred bidders – the choice should be finalised in December. However, what will actually be done will probably not be known for a year from now. Potentially there will be around £ 60m available though it is unclear as to how this will be spent. Cllr Johnstone pointed out that at the last broadband meeting he attended there was a promise of decisions about where fibre-optic cables would be installed by August. Clearly this is not going to happen.

**9. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 14th September.

**The meeting was closed at 8.05pm**