

CASTLE CARROCK & GELTSDALE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday May 10th 2017 Watson Institute

MINUTES

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Rebecca Stacey, Head teacher at Castle Carrock Primary School addressed the meeting with regard to new security measures which might need to be taken in order to protect the school premises. Miss Stacey outlined how, in the light of other incidences around the country, Ofsted now require higher levels of security in and around schools. In the case of Castle Carrock Primary School, this is a difficult issue to address since the school field and playground are regularly used by village children out of school time.

Ms Stacey noted that currently there are random acts of vandalism being carried out - i.e roofing felt being ripped off the shed, toys being taken from the Early Learning shed, littering, trying to break into the sports shed etc.

The various options as to how to increase the security would be perimeter fencing, walls, locking gates. None of these are desirable in this location and would prevent the field in particular from being used outside school hours, and since there is no playground in the village, this was considered to be a bad option. Better would be adequate distribution of CCTV cameras, positioned so as to cover all outside areas. It was agreed by all that this would be much more suitable under the circumstances. Ms Stacey pointed out that the school budget would not run to huge amounts of extra spending and asked if the Parish Council could help with funding. The Chairman suggested contacting 'CamTech' who supply this kind of equipment. Once a quote has been obtained, the Parish Council will endeavour to ascertain sources of funding to which the school can apply directly.

Present: Councillors G Devereux, D Low, D Knight, S Wright, R Johnstone

In attendance: T Meynell (Clerk), Cllr D Parsons (Ctiy Council)

1. Apologies.

Cllr. G Widdowson, Cllr H Holland

2. Declaration of interests. Richard Johnstone in agenda item 4c

3. Minutes.

The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2017 as a true record.

4. Agenda Items

a. Based on the information given prior to the meeting by Rebecca Stacey regarding School Security - It was agreed that CCTV cameras are the most sensible solution and the Parish Council will endeavour to point the school in the right direction for funding of same.

b It was noted that The Village Carnival is scheduled for June 24th to take place on the Marr and in the hall.

c. Request from Geltsdale Arts seeking financial support for Music on the Marr 2017 from the Parish Council as in previous years. It was agreed that MoM is an asset to the village, providing income to the pub, the church and the hall, and it was therefore agreed that a sum of £250.00 was reasonable. A cheque will be prepared for the next meeting.

d A parishioner had requested the Parish Council to consider placing a bus shelter close to the Marr for children waiting for the school busses. It was unanimously agreed that this was not a viable proposition for the following reasons: There is no space to erect one unless on the Marr where it would be unsightly. The pavements are too narrow to accommodate any sort of shelter. There has never been one in the past, and it was agreed that it is not necessary now.

e. Request from Elaine Watson on behalf of Castle Carrock Leek Club and Autumn Show organisers to use the Marr on Sat 9th Sept involving the use of a small marquee and a gazebo if the weather is bad. There will also be a dog show and other events during the day. All agreed that this is absolutely fine.

f. Thank you to all the litter pickers who worked hard over a weekend in March to de-litter the roads and verges in and around the village. There has subsequently been an offer from the leader of the Girl Guides who meet in the Watson Hall, suggesting that the girls could carry out an interim litter pick in identified locations if required. This was agreed to be a good idea - the PC will provide litter pickers and bin bags.

g. Request from the Watson Hall Committee for the Parish Council to pay their annual insurance premium, as in previous years. This year the premium is £760.24. It was pointed out that the Watson Hall bank balance is relatively good, and more substantial than the Parish Council's own bank balance. It was agreed that Cllr Johnstone will approach the village hall committee and ask them to consider whether it is still vital and appropriate that the PC finances their insurance on a regular basis.

5. Correspondence – letters and emails received were viewed and discussed where appropriate.

6. Financial Matters - Statement of account and bills to pay as follows

- a.** Reimbursement for office expenses to parish clerk £7.00 - cheque #418
- b.** Annual subs due to CALC - £132.60 -cheque #419

7. Planning Matters -None

8. Councillor's Issues

Cllr Devereux was repairing the benches on the Marr and noticed that the pub benches were in much better repair than those belonging to the Parish Council despite the fact that they are newer than the pub benches which have now been painted. It was thought the benches had been accidentally swapped around prior to painting, with the pub ending up with two of the newer benches actually belonging to the PC. The PC ones should generally be kept a little further from the pub so that walkers are free to use them without feeling obliged to buy a drink from the pub.

Cllr Knight — Smart water - as mentioned at last meeting, Cllr Knight tried to purchase some from the Police Station in Brampton - it was agreed that it was not worth purchasing any after all, since all items marked from one bottle of solution have to belong to the same person/organisation. The Parish Council only owns benches, many of them not worth stealing in the first place.

The meeting closed at 20:40

Date of next meeting: Friday 14th July 8pm