

Caton with Littledale Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday 14th January, 2025 at 7pm at Lune Valley Methodist Hub, Brookhouse

Present Cllr Boland, Cllr Carter, Cllr Gibbons, Cllr Powell, Cllr Rei, Cllr Walmsley (vice-chair) Cllr Wright.
Laura McGowan – clerk.
5 members of the public. City Councillor Joyce Pritchard

1/25 Open Forum

A number of residents expressed concern regarding traffic safety in the village particularly over speeding on Hornby Road/A683 and the illegal parking at the Station Hotel on zig-zag lines.

2/25 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Heywood (chair)

3/25 To consider and approve the minutes of the meetings held Tuesday 10th December, 2024

It was resolved that minutes be approved and signed by the vice-chair.

Proposed by Cllr Rei

Seconded by Cllr Wright

4/25 To receive declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Walmsley declared an interest in any item regarding Caton St Paul's School the Victoria Institute as a trustee

Cllr Wright declared an interest in any item regarding Caton Primary School.

Cllr Gibbons declared an interest in any item regarding the Victoria Institute as a trustee.

Cllr Carter declared an interest in any item regarding Lune Valley Community Land Trust as a trustee

5/25 To consider planning applications and matters

[25/00009/FUL](#) – Installation of an air source heat pump

Property address – 8 Roman Crescent, Caton LA2 9RD

The Parish Council has no observations

[24/01377/FUL](#) - Demolition of existing porch and conservatory and erection of a two storey rear extension and single storey side extension, alterations to roof including dormer extension and to window openings/external finishes and installation of external wall insulation

Property address - 33 Pinewood Avenue, Brookhouse, Lancaster, Lancashire, LA2 9NU

The Parish Council has no objections

6/25 Payments

Regular Payments

Easyweb website hosting (S/O) (Dec)	£36.96
Victoria Institute (Contribution Dec)	£800.00
Victoria Institute (Room Hire Dec plus £6 use of kitchen)	£58.00
Clerks Wages (Jan)	£608.00
Clerk Expenses (Dec)	£60.21
02 Mobile (Clerk Mobile Dec)	£6.99
Bank service charge (Dec)	£6.00

The council requested confirmation of service charge payments

Receipts

None

Balance at end of Dec 2024

Co-Op Bank	£34,615.24
Unity Bank	£35,536.52
Total	£70,151.56

It was resolved that the payments be made.

Proposed by Cllr Powell

Seconded by Cllr Wright

7/25 To consider and approve the precept for 2025/2026

A 5 % increase was proposed and agreed in the December meeting and documentation signed for a precept of £39,720.51.

Proposed by Cllr Powell

Seconded by Cllr Wright

8/25 To consider the update on the Fell View playpark repair and maintenance

To consider update on the progress of repair – rotten timbers and repair of path

Progress had been halted due to the bad weather over winter. Clerk to discuss timeline and maintenance contract options for February meeting.

9/25 To consider any highways and/or footpath matters

To consider progress on the installation of camera for SPIDS

Lancashire County Council awaiting delivery of bracket to fix to installed pole.

To consider Beckside Green and by Artlebeck bridge contractor damage

Clerk chased again and Cadent have instructed a contractor to lay more top soil and reseed in affected areas.

To consider footpath review actions

No progress update over winter due to weather. Current closure of footpath from Hawthorn Close ~~footpath~~ to neighbouring fields had been extended for a further six months. This has been advised to residents on social media page although works do not appear to have commenced.

Cllr Carter raised concerns over frozen leaves on Artlebeck footbridge.

Clerk to investigate solution.

To consider current status of hedges in the parish

Two areas of concern:-

Chase progress on Croftlands adjacent with A683

Approach Caton Hall to cut fallen ivy shrubs on A683

To consider update on local participation in Lancashire Police speed monitoring

No update from Halton to date.

To consider progress on traffic plan/safety improvement paper.

Cllr Rei ad Cllr Wright to touch base with County Councillor Maxwell-Scott and extend invitation to February or March meeting to explore options.

10/25 To consider any management and maintenance matters

To consider update on Oak Tree Copy Lane restoration (Mr Webster) and pruning quotations

Following receipt of cheque from Mr Webster, Arbor Ace have been contacted to prune oak for end of January.

Clerk met with Tree Preservation Officer Sam Lumb prior to Christmas regarding rebuild of wall and future growth of tree. Email confirmation received that if roots are not disturbed, like-for-like replacement does not require planning permission or TPO application.

11/25 To consider any parish management relating to Victoria Institute

Update from January Committee of Management meeting

- Problems with heating should be resolved. Anti-tampering covers may be installed.
- £540 donation from B4RN for PA system was welcomed
- New website for room bookings and payment implementation in progress
- Room hire charge to increase – new rates have been shared with regular users
- Issues with cleaner for floor-based activities to be addressed
- Possibly running fund-raising events
- 2 residents attended meeting to consider becoming trustees

To consider monthly financial contribution to VI for 2025/26

As per budget-setting group recommendations, no uplift would be implemented

To consider public convenience opening times and costs – to be raised at February meeting.

Clerk to send comments received to vice-chair.

12/25 To consider the update and status on the Greenway improvements

To consider work completed and in progress/scheduled

Fencing agreed, cracked paving around benches, pathway clearance has taken place, this would clear the current reserve. Tim Blythe is happy to contribute to further increase to £13.5K and a request made that contractors are paid on receipt of invoice for agreed works proposed.

Proposed Cllr Powell

Seconded Cllr Boland

To consider update on Community orchard

Scouts approached to help out on date of 22nd February 10am . Supplier contacted to progress with order for potential collection by Tim Blythe – if delivered cost would be £80+vat

13/25 To consider the upcoming training opportunities for Councillors

Rural training course Wednesday 29th January is being held online Cllr Rei and Cllr Carter would attend.

Authorise cost of course

Proposed Cllr Wright

Seconded Cllr Powell

14/25 To consider an update on the passive housing development

Cllr Carter updated that a Steering group formation was in progress. A summary update was emailed in advance of meeting to the Parish Council. A proposed letter to various parties including local MP Lizzie Collinge was circulated during the meeting. It was agreed this would be written from Cllr Carter expressing he had the Parish Council support of the scheme and setting up of a steering group Cllr Rei to proofread letter in advance of sending.

15/25 To consider update on provision for young people of the parish inc. engagement Activities

No update. Carried Forward to February meeting.

16/25 To receive items for consideration for a future agenda and Any Other Business

To consider councillor details on parish website

Vice-chair requested councillors check our website format and other Parish Councils.

Carried Forward to February meeting.

Update on Charity Commission accounts

The clerk reported that both the War Memorial and Poor's Land account submission was up to date after gaining access to the on-line portal.

17/25 Date and time of the next parish council meetings

- Tuesday 11th February 2025 – VI

The meeting closed at pm 8.16pm.

Signed **Date**.....