

Caton-with-Littledale Annual Parish Meeting

**Tuesday 13th May, 2025 at 6.30pm at
The Lune Valley Methodist Hub, Brookhouse.**

Minutes

Present:

2 members of the public, Sergeant Lindsay Brown, Cllr Heywood, chairman of the parish council, Laura McGowan, clerk to the parish council, Cllr Boland, Cllr Carter, Cllr Gibbons, Cllr Powell, Cllr Walmsley

1.Apologies for absence.

Cllr Rei, Cllr Wright

2.Annual report from the chairman of the parish council.

As the Chair of Caton-with-Littledale Parish Council, I am pleased to chair and welcome everyone this Annual Parish Meeting.

2024/25 has thankfully been a more stable and regular year as far as Parish council business and responsibilities are concerned.

This last 12 months has seen the completion of one major project with just a few loose ends to tie up.

Firstly, the Greenway, this was no small project for the parish and all major works have now been completed, those regular users will have noticed further ongoing improvements like the access paving added to the picnic benches and to the newly planted community orchard.

We have had delays to improvements and repairs to the Playpark and after what seemed forever, we were able to get and put down the cushionfall with the help of residents of Littledale Hall. Further repairs had to be put-off with the consistent bad weather but I am happy to say these last few weeks of good weather have allowed Chris Lennon to dig in and get on with pathway repairs and a start on replacing all the rotten sleepers. The bare sloped areas will be seeded once we have some wet weather.

We have managed to either remove bollards where access was inhibited and have others repainted. Thanks to Cllr Boland for doggedly sorting these out. There is also the continual work on parish assets like bus stops, bins and footpaths.

I would also like to thank Mr Webster for his donation which allowed needed tree work to be carried out on the Oak at Copy Lane/Brookhouse Road junction. It was disappointing that the cost of wall repairs were prohibitive at this time.

The replacement sapling grown from an acorn of the old oak seems to be doing well and settling in.

The new SPID (Solar Powered speed Indication Device) has been installed and seems to be doing its job well in reducing speeding into the village. We have the software to extrapolate data from it so hope to run some trials later this year.

The Council has also submitted a road safety paper to Lancashire County Council. It awaits a full response, thanks to Cllr Wright and Cllr Rei for the work put into the submitted report.

We will again have a presence at Caton Gala this year, we welcome comments, ideas and suggestions to help our Parish be a better place to live. We look at everything we get and if practicable we will take onboard.

It has been sad to note the closure of both The Black Bull and Ship Inn. I hope a positive outcome arrives for both.

This has also been a full year with our New Parish clerk, I must thank Laura for her continued enthusiasm for the job and her input into parish affairs whilst learning the job on the go.

I would finally like to thank all councillors for the work they have put in over the last 12 months, much goes on silently in the background to help keep Caton-with-Littledale a great place to live.

Nick Heywood

Chair
Caton-with-Littledale Parish Council

3. Statement of accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2025.

Caton with Littledale Annual Parish Meeting **Finance summary ending 31st March 2025**

Carried forward	£53,727
Receipts	
Precept	£37,829
VAT	£10,097
LEF Grant	£22,135
Fishing Rights - Poors Land (2 years)	£ 1,300
The Link	£ 750
PROW Grant	£ 500
Lancashire Community Orchard Fund	£ 728
Caton Gala – Playpark donation	£ 200
W Webster (Oak tree donation)	£ 300

Payments

Salaries & contractual works	£12,179
Office/audit/insurance/subscriptions/room hire/ training/Neighbourhood plan/Bank charges	£ 4,953
IT/Phone/SpIDs	£ 190
Victoria institute grant (inc rewire contribution)	£11,400
Village repair/ maintenance / grass cutting/ rates	£ 8,990
Greenway Project	£26,194
Fell View Playpark	£14,798
Grants (Poor's Land)	£ 750
Car Park Lease	£ 800
 To Carry forward	 £47,313

4. Open Forum

The main questions centred around the presentation of information from Sergeant Lindsay Brown. This has been included in detail in a supplementary report attached.

Do we pay for the Greenway funds?

Cllr Powell explained that works had been grant-funded by Lancashire Environmental Fund and Lancashire County Council.

An additional question was raised regarding extending the cycleway towards Hornby and Sustrans are looking to extend the greenway to link to Hornby but this was not a speedy process regarding negotiations with landowners.