

CAISTOR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Caistor Town Council, which was held on Thursday 14th March 2019 in the Alan Caine Council Chamber, Town Hall, Caistor.

Present: Cllr Somerscales (in the Chair), Cllrs Mackenzie, Mrs Barker, Hughes, Bowman, Gaughan, Millson, Stopper, Sizer, Critten, Galligan, Wright, Clark & Rudd.

In attendance: Cllrs Lawrence & Bierley plus Jim Hanrahan (Town Clerk) and 5 members of the press and public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Chairman's Report:**

- The Chairman had been on holiday for the previous two weeks so engagements had been limited to attending the ceremony at the Spalding WW11 monument.
- Mr Cliff Rust a well-known Caistor citizen, had been awarded Volunteer of the Year by West Lindsey District Council (WLDC).
- Mr Kim Hodson, is recommended to be appointed as our General Maintenance and Cleaning Contractor, subject to approval by this meeting.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2019:**

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed and seconded by Cllrs Barker & Mackenzie and subsequently agreed.

5. **Reports from External Bodies:**

a) **Police Report:**

Unfortunately, the Police were unable to attend, but have promised to do so at the next meeting, to talk about changes to Policing in Caistor. The matter of CCTV in Caistor was raised again, following scams & thefts from businesses in Caistor, Market Place and the ability of the Police to respond effectively and timeously. It was noted that the Town Council should be willing in principle to financially support the costs of the scheme. It was also indicated that the Post Office would be willing to host monitoring equipment in their secure area. It was proposed and seconded, by Cllrs Millson & Sizer respectively, and duly agreed that the Town Council should make representations, in association with Lincolnshire Police, to WLDC to install CCTV in the Market Place.

b) **LCC Report:** None received, however, the Town Clerk reported that all issues mentioned at the last meeting had been reported to LCC.

c) **WLDC Report:** Cllrs Lawrence and Bierley were happy to respond to any questions on their report which had been circulated and said that they had noted the CCTV discussions for referral back to WLDC.

6. **Town Clerk's Report on ongoing matters:**

- **Freedom of Information:** The FOI from Mr Stockwood has been replied to timeously and receipt acknowledged. The County Council have advised that they had received a complaint about operations on the highway and reminded

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us of the need to seek formal consent for operations on the highway but would not be taking any further action.

- **Maintenance & Cleansing Contractor:** Members noted that Keith Robinson's contract with the Town Council ends on 31st March 2019. Mr Kim Hodson who is a recently retired Caistor resident. Will be his replacement subject to confirmation of terms in the confidential section at this meeting. Mike Gilliatt will continue to maintain the church yards but Kim will undertake all other duties.
- **Cricket Field:** Ashby Grass Care have been appointed as contractor, to carry out scarification, over-seeding and fertilizer application on the outfield at the cricket ground commencing week starting 11th March.
- **Youth Cricket Grant:** The presentation of the cheque for £1000 will be made at their first cricket practice on 9th April 2019 at CS&SC.
- **Parish & District Council Elections:** There will be elections held on 2nd May 2019. Candidates must deliver their nomination forms to the WLDC Electoral Registration Office in the Guildhall, Gainsborough by 4pm on 3rd April 2019. Forms must be delivered in person between 23rd March and 3rd April 2019.
- **Newsletter & 2019 Events:** The Town Council's Annual Newsletter and 2019 Events leaflet to all households had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members are invited to endorse the content and decide if the combined newsletter and 2019 events leaflet is to be delivered by Members. It was proposed and seconded, by Cllrs Galligan & Critten, and duly agreed that Members will deliver the leaflet by hand.
- **Varlow's Yard:** The developer of this site has asked the Town Council to reconsider his suggested street name, in the light of the reputation of Mr Varlow. The Town Clerk advised that under Standing Orders (SO) decisions cannot be revisited within six months unless it is agreed that Standing Orders are suspended. It was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Wright & Sizer and duly agreed by majority vote that SOs be suspended for this item. It was subsequently proposed and seconded by Cllrs Wright & Sizer and agreed by majority vote that the name Varlow's Yard be accepted.
- **Salt Merchant:** Members recalled that bags of Rock Salt were to be delivered to the Mill Lane depot. The delivery was never completed as the local agent couldn't access the yard due to their vehicle size. They subsequently cancelled our order but have not fully reimbursed our payment (£1380). I have been advised by our solicitors that we should challenge them, in Court if necessary. It was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Critten & Millson and duly agreed that cost effective legal action be taken to recover the loss.
- **Town Hall car park:** It was noted that resurfacing work was being carried out on 14/15th March. Our contractor has advised that 4 extra car park bays could be created, with some minor changes to the boundary kerbs and realigning. The additional cost is £6,090 (+ vat). The opportunity to create more 3 spaces at the Town Hall end will require more investigations about the wall and its foundations. The Town Hall Committee are supportive of these ideas. It was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Somerscales & Galligan that the additional works be not approved at this time. This was carried by majority vote.
- **Glendale Countryside:** have submitted their prices to continue as our main grass cutting contractor 2019-20. These are presented on job by job basis and

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show an increase of just under 2% compared to last year's prices. It was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Somerscales and Galligan that the quotation be accepted. This was unanimously approved.

7. **Finance:**

- a) **Payment & Receipt of Accounts for February 2019:** The schedule of payments and receipts were circulated for approval. It was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Millson & Wright that the schedule be accepted.
- b) **Fees & Charges for 2019-20:** Last year the Town Council increased charges by circa 3% and this year the Precept has been increased by a similar amount. It was proposed and seconded by Cllrs Millson and Wright and duly that fees and charges be increased by 3% rounded to the nearest £5 as appropriate. This was approved unanimously.

8. **Correspondence:**

1. **Mr Taylor of Hansard Crescent**, Caistor has requested that the Town Council consider supporting the Sheds Initiative. Members were minded agreeing to support the initiative but required a formal proposal to consider exactly what action is required.
2. **Mr Harrison of Wolds View**, Caistor has complained at the there has been a serious deterioration in the quality of life in Caistor and cites the following examples:
 1. The lack of an adequate streetlighting policy at night.
 2. The time taken by the Police at 3am to respond to a 999 call regarding a possible housebreaking crime in progress (35mins).
 3. The time taken to repair wind damaged fencing at South Street Park.Points 1 & 2 are County Council and Police matters and have been forward to these agencies for consideration. The fence repairs have previously been contracted to Dean Mellor who anticipates being on site in April. Mr Harrison has been advised by letter.
3. **Mr Waterman of South Street**, Caistor has requested that the South Street Park fence adjacent to his property be repaired as it is in needs of attention. These works are fairly minor and could be added to those contracted to Dean Mellor for the Wolds View side fence. Mr Waterman has been advised by email.
4. **Mr Hopkins of Caistor Grammar School**, has written regarding students parking in the Town Hall car park to the detriment of users. He understands that local residents also use the car park because they don't have parking spaces outside their houses. CGS continue to inform students that they should not be parking there and will pass on the message about the resurfacing work. His suggestion is that we enforce a two-hour maximum parking system in the town hall car park. Town Hall users, could receive a permit for the period of hire. CGS have no capacity at their site. Staff park in Church Street or opposite the Heritage Centre. CGS support Town Hall usage and ensure that students are aware of their responsibilities to the community. It was agreed that the Town

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Clerk prepare a report for consideration at the next meeting outlining options for the control of vehicle parking in the Town Hall car park.

5. **Rishi Sunak MP, Minister for Local Government** has advised that Parliament has now amended the rules that apply to local government, parish council, and local and combined authority mayor elections, removing the requirement that each candidate's home address must be published during the election process and be included on the ballot paper.

9. **Parks & Play Areas monthly Inspection:** Cllr Rudd reported on the condition of the Town Council's parks and play areas.
 - a) South Street Park was generally ok but there was a litter problem as a result of an overflowing bin.
 - b) Millfields had some damage to the soft surface which could develop into a trip hazard.
 - c) CS&SC had a trip hazard due to worn surfaces exposing green mesh.
 - d) Cherry Valley footpath steps (off Sandbraes) need repair due to wear and tear.

10. **Reports from external meetings:**
 - a) **Caistor Cares:** There will be a special showing of the film the Italian Job on 24th April. Attendances remain over 30 per session.
 - b) **CS&SC:** Only one street light is currently operational, and an electrician is urgently needed. The Town Clerk to find a suitable alternative company.
 - c) **Caistor Grammar School:** CGS had provided dates for their open evening on 15th May 2019 and 11+ exams on 7th & 21st September and have requested volunteer assistance with parking management.

11. **Motion to exclude the Press & Public to discuss confidential matters:**

Meeting closed 2044 hrs