

CAISTOR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Caistor Town Council held on Thursday 10th October 2019 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Caistor.

Present: Cllrs J Wright (in the chair), J Bowman, A Clark, S Critten, S Davey S Duprat, M Galligan, C Mackenzie, C Rudd, M Sizer & A Somerscales.

Present: Cllr O Bierley, A Lawrence, J Hanrahan (Town Clerk) and 4 members of the press & public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs S Gaughan, J Hughes & S Wright
2. **Declaration of Interests:** None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting (12-09-19):** It was moved and seconded, by Cllrs A Clark & M Sizer respectively, that the minutes were a true and correct record. This was agreed.
4. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman advised that he had attended four functions on behalf of the Town Council:
 - a. **19 September:** Caistor Grammar School's awards presentation at the Parish church which was an enjoyable evening in which past pupil Cameron Richardson-Eames spoke and entertained us.
 - b. **22nd September:** Attended the Civic Service for the Chairman of WLDC Cllr Steve England at Welton Church with refreshments afterwards.
 - c. **29th September:** Attended the Arts & Heritage centre event which there was an outdoor service followed with scavenger hunt, music, craft stalls and BBQ. An excellent example again of our amazing community spirit here in Caistor.
 - d. **1st October:** Attended the British Red Cross event at Bomber Command along with Cllrs Galligan and Sizer. We presented the Red Cross with a cheque for over £400 on behalf of Caistor in Bloom. This amount being the proceeds made on the open gardens event. It was greatly received and appreciated.
5. **Actions Arising from Committees:**

Members received and considered the deliberations of the Economic Development Committee and its ongoing work. No new actions needed to be agreed.
6. **Reports from External Bodies:**
 - a. **Police Report:** PCSO Dawn Cowling
Members noted the report, which had been previously circulated. Concern was raised at the lack of mentions of Caistor, when incidents are known to have occurred. The Police online crime maps are out of date, months behind incidents.
 - b. **Lincolnshire County Council:** In the absence of County Councillor Turner, No Report was available. However, the Town Clerk advised that all highways matters that had been raised previously had been reported to the County Council
 - c. **West Lindsey District Council:** Cllr Owen Bierley & Grant White
Cllr Brierley presented his comprehensive written report on behalf of Cllr A Lawrence and himself. Grant White provided a verbal update on the CCTV initiatives in WLDC and Caistor. His written report would be circulated after the meeting.

He explained that he was investigating a range of options in terms of WLDC cameras including high quality cameras, including ANPR and infrared / night vision options for the system. In terms of Caistor camera options will be explored beyond the Market Place to include the A46 as the Police were interested in post incident traffic movements. This will result in an overall assessment in November 2019 or thereabouts, with input from the Town Council and other interested parties.

Members asked many questions most of which could not be answered until the overall assessment was complete. He could then advise on options for camera numbers, locations, maintenance and monitoring costs including Caistor Town Council contributions. He confirmed that the cameras were currently

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monitored at varying times but recorded 24/7 and images were retrievable. The Police have access to the live system. The system does not have face recognition software but people and registrations can be identified from images.

7. Town Clerks Report:

- a. **Former Spar Shop:** Members noted that a few volunteers led by Cllr Critten had tidied up and repainted the elevations of the property making it far more presentable. The property is currently being valued by Banks Long & Co and a detailed report with options will be brought to the next Town Council meeting. Access to the upper floors is proving difficult but a valuation is still possible.
- b. **Syfer Spring:** It was noted that the spring on Fountain Street has been cleared and is no longer blocked with water now flowing freely underground. However, the road surface is damaged and has been reported to the County Council.
- c. **Kim Hodson:** Members noted that in addition to litter picking and general maintenance duties he has commenced a programme of painting the fence posts, and repairing the railings, in and around the Town Centre. Kim has also given Canada Lane and PRow footpaths their final grass cuts of the year. Work is ongoing at the Cemetery on grass and hedge cutting.
- d. **Caistor Lions:** It was noted that the annual Bonfire Night will be held in South Street Park, on Saturday 2nd November from 6pm.
- e. **Christmas Market & Switch On:** The annual event will take place on Saturday 30th November this year from 1-5pm. Several new stalls are expected to be present as well as the usual suspects.
- f. **Food Events:** These events were being organised by Rachel Axcell held on the First Wednesday of the month and are proving to be popular and successful. More are planned at South Street Park and its potential relocation to the Market Place is under consideration. The Town Hall Committee has offered the use of the Town Hall should an indoor venue be required.
- g. **Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVPs):** Discussions are ongoing with equipment providers and car park operators regarding costs of installation, maintenance and operation of EVCPs. The appropriate Traffic Management Orders will need to be raised for the Market Place and Town Hall. These will include a four-hour parking limit, in the town hall car park, between 8am – 4pm Monday to Friday. Long term parking should be available at Mill Lane in the future. A comprehensive report will be made at the November Town Council meeting.
- h. **Caistor Development Trust:** Members welcomed the news that this £10k has now been transferred the Town Council, for use only on car parking initiatives.
- i. **Mill Lane:** The news that Caistor Development & Land Trust has been awarded circa £60k lottery funds to undertake site surveys and a detailed feasibility study for housing and car parking on this site, was welcomed. The works will cost circa £78k in total which leaves an £18k gap. A bid has been made to WLDC for £8k match funding, which if successful would leave circa £10k to be identified. **Members were agreeable in principle to bridging the funding gap, as part of contributing to the car parking element of the scheme. This would be subject to a further report on final funding awards.**
- j. **Grants:** It was noted that three community groups had submitted bids for grants which will be considered at the meeting of the Finance Committee on 17th October 2019. The deadline for bids was 30th September 2019 and the agreed figure will be added to the 2020-21 budget as part of the precept process.
- k. **Tree Preservation:** Members noted and were supportive of Mike Gilliatt's argument for Tree Preservation Orders in Caistor. However, the Town Clerk advised that it is most unusual for a TPO to

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be laid on trees not yet planted. The comments have been forwarded to WLDC and are being considered.

- a. **Metal Detecting:** Members noted that the Town Clerk had stopped a man from digging in South Street park. This followed comments by a member of the public, from Burnet's Yard, that a man was using a metal detector in the South Street Park and digging small holes in the grass.
- b. **Caistor Cricket Club (CCC):** Members were aware that CCC have a licence to play at the Sports Ground. They maintain the cricket square to a high standard and the outfield is cut by them rather than our grounds contractor. CCC need to replace their tractor at a cost of circa £4500 and sight screens and have approached the ECB for grant but have been declined as they need security of tenure, via a lease of 5 years minimum. CCC have submitted a request to Finance Committee for £1000 grant from the Town Council S137, assuming ECB support. The need for the mower is relatively urgent as grounds maintenance is ongoing in the off season. It was agreed that this matter be considered in private session.

8: Finance:

- a. The District Auditor's report (AGAR) was noted. The Town Clerk explained that the minor caveats were due to the Internal Auditor missing the £100 contribution to the precept by WLDC and the anomaly of dates and signatures on notices.
- b. The notice of completion of Audit was noted.
- c. The Council's monthly income and expenditure, and balances so far this year were noted to be on target.
- d. Acceptance of the monthly schedule of payments and receipts for August was proposed and seconded by Cllrs M Sizer & A Clark and subsequently agreed.

9: Correspondence:

None

10. Parks Inspection:

Cllr J Bowman ran through the Parks inspection report:

- a. **Millfields:** was neat and tidy from litter. The stream was running freely. However, some safety surfaces were covered in algae and were a slip hazard.
- b. **South Street Park:** was neat and tidy from litter. One of the younger child swings needs repairing. Again, some safety surfaces were covered in algae and were a slip hazard. The Millenium Garden was still tatty and needs tidying by Caistor in Bloom or the Town Council. The Top fence needs attention and there appears to be a den made out of wood which needs clearing. Members were disappointed that another contractor has let us down on fence repairs and the contract should be retendered.
- c. **Sports Ground:** Meshing was lifting near the skate park and needs to be attended to possibly resurfaced.

Members noted the report and the Town Clerk and contractor would consider how best to resolve the issues.

11. Outside Bodies:

- a. **Caistor Goes:**
Cllr C Mackenzie reported that there had not been a meeting this month. However, the matter of the Christmas Tree needed to be considered by voluntary groups (Cares, Lions, In Bloom) as soon as possible
- b. **Caistor Cares:**
Cllr A Clark reported that nearly £125 had been raised at the last event and that Chris Robey was in line to be recognised for an award.
- c. **CS&SC:**
Cllr A Clark updated Members on the receipt of £50 from Caistor grammar School as a contribution for the help given on the 11+ car parking. It was agreed that the CS&SC retain the income.

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Walking football had reported more dog faeces on the youth pitch and had requested that the Town Council take action.

The education, monitoring and catching offenders is key. They are not anti-dog as suggested in the press, but the field is primarily a sports field with dog walking permitted when on a leash and cleaned up after them.

It was agreed that this matter be discussed further in private session.

d. **GO2:**

Cllr J Bowman advised that GO2 had held a Caistor schools environmental event involving all three schools which had gained regional publicity. Unfortunately, no one from the Town Council had been able to attend. It was noted that the Coop refurbishment had included measures to reduce energy loss by changing chiller cabinets to ones with doors.

12. Closed Session: It was proposed that the Town Council Move into Closed session. Proposed & seconded by Cllrs M Sizer & A Clark. This was agreed unanimously. Cllr C Rudd left the meeting.

a. **Dog Issues at CS&SC:**

After a discussion it was agreed not to ban dog walking on the field but to take measures to control the problem. Members had a broad discussion of the measures possible and their likely effectiveness in controlling this chronic problem. The education, monitoring and catching offenders is key. They are not anti-dog as suggested in the press, but the field is primarily a sports field with dog walking permitted when on a leash and cleaned up after them. We have sought advice from other Council's on effective controls and none have resolved the problem, as it is down to the behaviour of dog owners. Members agreed to several measures including:

1. Engage with dog owners in the vicinity to encourage them to be more considerate and advise us of any contraventions.
2. Increase signage, informing owners of the requirement to keep their dogs on a leash and to clean up after them.
3. Undertake more dog warden patrols at key times when offences are likely to occur.
4. Train up more dog wardens, with powers to fine offenders, this to include Sports Ground users.
5. Members will consider a total dog banning order, in due course if the above measures are not effective.
6. It was agreed to seek volunteers for training at the next Club Committee.

b. **Caistor Cricket Club:**

After discussion, it was proposed & seconded by Cllr M Size and A Clark respectively that that an extended lease, compliant with ECB guidelines be offered to the CCC. In the interim a letter of intent would be provided. The Town Council declined the options of a loan or purchase. Town Council would consider separately the grant request already made. This was unanimously agreed.

c. **Economic Development Committee Issues:**

Cllr Critten updated members that the Mill Lane initiative is to receive £60k from Homes England feasibility funds and members agreed to financially support in principle subject to a detailed report at the next meeting. The 2-4 Market Place is being considered by National Lottery with a decision next month. Members noted the progress on both initiatives.

Meeting closed at 8:41 (2041)