

# Caistor Town Council: Economic Development Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Economic Development Committee held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Caistor.

**Present:** Cllrs Critten, Bowman, Clark, Galligan, Gaughan, Hughes, Sizer & Wright.

**In attendance:** Jim Hanrahan (Town Clerk).

**Apologies:** Cllrs Duprat & Davey.

1. **Election of Chairman:** It was proposed by Cllrs Sizer & Clark that Cllr Critten be elected chairman. There being no other nominations he was duly elected.
2. **Minutes of last Meeting** held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 were proposed and seconded by Cllrs Clark & Gaughan as a true record and were duly approved.
3. **Town Walkabout:** Cllr Bowman enquired about the outcome of the Town Walkabout, as she had been missed off the emailed invitation. The Town Clerk apologised for this oversight adding that the walkabout had been undertaken at 6pm immediately prior to this meeting. The Walkabout tour had incorporated sites with issues to be addressed in the near future comprising: Market Place (shops & markets), Mill Lane (housing and car park), South Street / Mill Lane (flooding & fencing), Southdale (over 50s housing and medical centre), Horsemarket (old fire station, post & rail fence & Spar shop), Fountain Street (spring, potholes and Church Folly), Bank Lane (Settlement bins & builder's skip), Westgate House (renovation) and Bobs Lane / Plough Hill (development sites).
4. **Mill Lane Depot:** Cllr Critten circulated a paper outlining the progress made with ACIS by the Caistor & District Community Land Trust (C&DCLT). They will be making a bid for housing infrastructure grant from Homes England, to clear the site of buildings and to the progress the housing element of the site (to the rear) in conjunction with CTC's development of the car parking element. C&DCLT could access the circa £30k s106 monies from the Caistor hospital site. There may be an issue to be overcome convincing WLDC Planners of the deliverability of any scheme on the site. Meetings with Homes England and ACIS have been positive. Target start date is April 2020.
5. **2-4 Market Place:** Heritage Lottery Fund have invited C&DCLT to make a full bid for Round 1 Lottery Funds having assessed the scheme. The likely project cost is £1.2 - 1.5m, with £600k grant being requested from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The formal agreement between C&DCLT and the Coop has been ratified with £0.5m being contributed by Lincolnshire Coop and a further sum of £0.5m from the Architectural Heritage Funding being applied for with a decision likely by April 2020. C&DCLT considered acquiring the vacant end property to complete the block but decided not to pursue at this time.
6. **Market Promotion:** The Town Clerk updated Members on his meeting with Rachel Axcell concerning her idea of promoting monthly after school food market-based events on Wednesdays in South Street Park. She proposes a mixture of food stalls and crafts with activities. Mention was made of the homemade bread stall from Rotherham which was very popular. Links to GO2 fruit and veg traders was made with a view to them attending our Saturday markets. Members also considered pedestrianisation of the Market Place, in whole or part may help with attracting traders and events. Any such scheme should be mindful of the needs of the aged and disabled to access services. Members noted that the owner of the former Spar shop on Plough Hill had been approached to allow it to be leased as a fruit and veg shop. Negotiations had stalled but the trader is looking at other premises in the town centre. The Town Clerk advised that he had written to the spar shop owner and his bank asking for consent for volunteers to paint it. The bank had advised that this would be the owner's decision but there had been no response from him so far. There was no news about the paper shop which is on the market for £120k.
7. **Business Liaison:** The Town Clerk advised that there were chronic issues with car parking at the Town Hall due to the lack of off-street parking in the Town. Half the Town Hall car park is occupied by students for Caistor Grammar, the remainder by local residents and employees in businesses in the Market Place. This left no room for users of the Town Hall especially those who were infirm,

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elderly or toddlers and was having a detrimental effect on attendance at Town Hall events. This was acknowledged by Members but it was felt that the delivery of a scheme at Mill Lane would have a positive impact all round, nonetheless Members encouraged the Town Clerk to examine how part of the Town Hall car park could be restricted to Town Hall users only.

- 8. Promoting Caistor:** Discussions between Stuart Caine, Cllr Duprat and the Town Clerk have led to an offer from Stuart Caine to absorb the Town Council website into the Love Caistor site, which he will do at no charge to the Town Council. Members saw this as sensible idea and generous offer. The Town Clerk is hopeful that a mock-up can be assembled for consideration at the next Town Council. Cllr Critten asked if Members would be interested in a short promotional video being produced for distribution to Tourist organisations and visitors on social media. The local film maker has offered his services free of charge but there would be some costs (circa £200) still need to be covered. WLDC Tourism encouraged the video and would use it but were unable to provide funds. Members were happy for this to be referred to Town Council. Members would also like to see something more interesting in the paper shop window, like the coop, the Town Clerk agreed to investigate.
- 9. Neighbourhood Plan:** At the next Town Council there will be a discussion about the Annual Parish Meeting and it was suggested that that meeting be extended to include a discussion about what folk expect in terms of improvements in Caistor in association with the Local & Neighbourhood plan reviews. The Town Clerk was asked to investigate grants for the review. Members also asked the Town Clerk to investigate:

  - Need for secure bicycle racks in the Market Place & Town Hall car park. Need to seek funding from Lincolnshire Wolds, District & County Councils. Potential Town Council Initiative.
  - Provision of electricity charging spaces at Town Hall and Market Place car parks needs investigating.
  - A local entrepreneur is looking for premises to carry out training in building trades principally for his apprentices. Potential premises have been identified off North Kelsey Road and discussions are ongoing with the landowner.
  - Potholes on Grimsby Road and Mill Lane had only partially been repaired.
- 10. Date of next meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Meeting closed at 2005 hrs**