



Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at 6.15pm at the Caistor Town Hall on 11 May 2023

Present: Cllr J. Wright (Chair),
In Attendance: Michelle Moss,
Members of public present: 11

1 **Welcome from the Chairman**
- Ref: 1949

Jon Wright (Chair of the Town Council) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Present were 11 residents including 10 town councillors.

2 **Approval of minutes from the Annual Town Meeting held on 14/04/2022**
- Ref: 1950

The minutes of the annual town meeting held on 14th April 2022 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

3 **To receive the chairmans report for the year to 31st March 2023**
- Ref: 1951

The chair noted that there had been many well planned and well attended events such as the classic cars, platinum jubilee celebrations and more recently the coronation and thanks those who organised and attended, helping to maintain the vibrancy of Caistor.

Thanks to the previous clerk, Carl Thomas for all his hard work and welcome to Michelle Moss, the new clerk who started in January.

Thanks and gratitude are also extended to Steve Critten and Steve Gaughan, who have sadly stepped down as councillors but whose hard work and perseverance helped achieve so much for the town and council.

Thank you also to those involved in Caistor in Bloom, who work so hard for Caistor.

The Saturday market is flourishing and steadily growing.

As Town Mayor, I have attended many functions, Guildhall, flag raising, crown judge for the coronation to name a few.

Finally, I would like to thank the town councillors for their dedication and amazing work they do for the town, and the county and district councillors who also work so hard supporting Caistor.

4 **To receive any committee reports for the year to 31st March 2023**
- Ref: 1952

Finance committee report - Thanks were extended to the clerk for the monthly reports to Council. These reports are robust, clear to understand and are meet the scrutiny of Cllrs. Although a few unexpected additional expenses this year, we have stayed within budget and financially stable for the year 2023-24. Major variances are explained by:

- The hand over period with our new and old clerk
- Remedial work in the St Peter and Paul's Churchyard to tidy up the back section. The new spring growth can now be enjoyed and is no longer hidden by years of over growth.
- The play park – we have begun a long overdue programme of work
- Gritting and ice management around the town which has been handed back to LCC
- Unexpected tree works at the cemetery
- £10,000 investment in 2-4 Market Place.

Employment committee report - The New Clerk Michelle Moss took up the position as RFO & Clerk for Caistor Town Council back in January and has brought in a breath of fresh air and has certainly made her mark within the Council.

Planning - During the period April 2022 to April 2023 the Planning Committee have considered 49 applications. The committee raised objections to 6 of them.

During this same period, I informed the council of 59 decisions made by the planning department at WLDC. Of

These are draft minutes and have not been formally approved and adopted



these 11 were refused.

One planning applications was withdrawn by the applicant.

Economic Development and Market - The Saturday market after the winter lull is beginning to thrive again with the unwavering support of Cllr Jayne Bowman with a great variety of stalls. The appointment of a towns manager Nicola Marshall at WLDC will help the market grow further. The Council page is becoming more popular and helps get information out to a large percentage of the population this perhaps needs managing more closely moving forward. This will hopefully take some pressure off Cllr Bowman who has been present most Saturday morning. We have now got space at the back of Stalf to store the gazebos and tables and a roof is being organised. The market rules and

The site at Mill Lane has stalled again due to the rising costs of construction and the project is currently on hold. A conversation with ASCIS would be appropriate moving forward to see what their plans are.

The neighbourhood plan review stalled again due to the way the funding had been applied for initially. We had applied for 50% at the end of one financial year then covid struck and when we came to apply for the 2nd 50% the funders had changed. So, to avoid confusion it was decided to pay back the original funder and wait for the new round of funding from April before applying for the full amount from the new funder.

2-4 Market Place has, with the help of Caistor Community Trust progressed significantly. A community share offer was successful but because of delays due to government turmoil and the economic crisis the PWBL over ran its year timescale and an extension had to be applied for. A legal contract is being drawn up by a working party to be applied to the Community trust to protect the payments for the Town Council. The purchase of 2-4 is imminent and the tenders are also due to be finalised and the contractor appointed by the end of May 2023. New businesses that appeared in the cornmarket seem to be surviving and the Side by Side has added a mobile cocktail cart to its offering.

The Council representatives are working well with our WLDC counterparts, and they have been very supportive of our projects with the regular meetings being very fruitful. This even led to WLDC offering Caistor the opportunity to access funding from the High Street Task Force and the final report for this will be completed soon and hopefully this will give the Town council an idea of what we can aspire to moving forward.

Negotiations are on-going about the Southdale site, and a cost analysis is being proposed to see what the best way forward for this would be. Although this site is owned by WLDC, and the NHS trust it is of great importance to the town and is in a state of disrepair. Personally, I believe this is a strategic site and needs to be addressed with the Town Councils involvement.

As councillors know I have set up a community energy group to investigate the feasibility of a project in Caistor and hopefully be in a good position moving forward if any new legislation comes in.

5 **To invite members of the public to raise any matters**
- Ref: 1953

Meeting closed at 18:25