



## Minutes of the Caistor Town Council held at 8:00pm at the Caistor Methodist Chapel on 23 November 2023

Present: Cllr J. Wright (Chair), Cllr S. Davey, Cllr P. Richardson, Cllr R. Lyus, Cllr M. Galligan, Cllr S. Hodson,  
Cllr J. Hughes, Cllr A. Somerscales, Cllr J. Cox, Cllr L. Milner, Cllr A. Clark, Cllr P. Morris,  
Cllr H. Priestly,

In Attendance: Michelle Moss, District Cllr A. Lawrence, District Cllr O. Bierley,  
Members of public present: 10

**1. To resolve to accept apologies for absence and reasons given in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 s85(1) - Ref: 2559**

It was noted that Cllr Bowman was not in attendance due to her register of interests.

**2. To receive declaration of interests and requests for dispensations and to consider granting dispensation(s) - Ref: 2560**

None

**3. Public Session (10 minutes, during which the meeting is suspended) - Ref: 2561**

None

**4. To approve the draft minutes of 9.11.23 - Ref: 2562**

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2023 be approved as a true record of the meetings and signed by the Chair.

Proposed: Cllr P. Richardson Seconder: Cllr A. Somerscales All in favour

**5. To consider the motion from Cllrs Milner, Wright, Galligan and Richardson to request that the decision made by Caistor Town Council on 3rd August and 14th September 2023 requiring a financial analysis to be completed prior to decision to agree the PWL for 2-4 Market place redevelopment be reconsidered and rescinded - Ref: 2563**

The contents of the motion had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Comments noted included:the financial review has not been completed, the council has a responsibility to use best evidence to make decisions and if the review has not been completed, then we are not making a decision responsibly; the due diligence plan was put together to ensure we were making the decision responsibly; things move on, CDCT need an urgent decision, we have a fixed charge, and now need to take a small leap of faith; there is a presumption that the building can be sold, but we are missing lots of facts, the tax payers shouldn't be saddled with a debt for 50 years because we didn't complete due diligence; CTC is not a lending bank; Co-op put many covenants on what the property could be used for, so it was difficult to sell, are those covenant still in place; CDCT should never have put CTC in this position and asked CTC for a loan; not all residents can afford an increase in precept; most of the public here tonight were shareholders and their views were biased; CTC have a duty to support all residents of Caistor; ideally there would be a financial review but if we wait there might not even be a project; as a council we agreed a process and now because CTC is under undue pressure from CDCT some councillors are looking to change that, we should be able to pursue our plan; if it doesn't go to plan, there will be an investigation and CTC will be found to be negligent if we haven't followed due process; perhaps WLDC and LCC should have been approached by CDCT about underwriting this loan instead of CTC. Vote to overturn the previous resolution - 3 councillors voted to overturn the previous decision to get a financial review completed prior to making a decision about the loan; 8 councillors voted not to overturn the previous decision (2 councillors abstained)

**6. To decide whether to proceed with the £750,000 PWL to lend to CDCT to support the redevelopment of 2-4 Market Place and agree any further actions - Ref: 2564**

It was noted that this agenda item could not proceed because of the decision made in agenda item 6.

Meeting closed at 8:42pm

Signature: .....

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