

CAISTER-ON-SEA
ANNUAL
PARISH MEETING

MONDAY, 20 APRIL 2026 - 6.30PM

THE COUNCIL HALL, 1 YARMOUTH ROAD, CAISTER

Meeting called by Cllr Kevin Wood – Chair, Caister Parish Council Meeting
Notes collated by Karina Barker – Clerk, Caister Parish Council

99 attendees present

1. Welcome

Cllr Wood welcomed all attendees to the Annual Parish Meeting. Thank you's were extended to Tesco, Caister, Oasis Pool, Batchelor Electrical Services, Fenn & Co, The Rabbit Hutch, Creative Decorations and Belles and Beaus Venue Styling for their sponsorship and support of this event and to Caister WI for serving refreshments to the attendees.

2. Notes from 2025 Annual Parish Meeting

Copies of the notes from the meeting were provided to attendees and signed by Cllr Wood.

3. Borough/County Councillor and/or Police Reports

None received. Borough Councillor Gary Boyd was in attendance and spoke to the room on the availability of ward grants to local groups/organisations.

4. Report: Chair, Caister Parish Council

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting and the second Annual Community Awards.

My name is Kevin Wood and I am currently the Chair of Caister-on-Sea Parish Council and giving this report on it's behalf.

Parish Councils are all about community and doing the right thing for our village.

The last twelve months have been positive for the Parish Council with another well supported festival in June last year - numbers attending over the two days estimated at 8000 plus and a large donation to Caister's Community Sensory Garden as a result. I personally stepped away from the Festival Committee during the winter, leaving the newly formed Festival committee to move things forward - hopefully with a revised 2027 Festival.

Some members of the Parish Council have worked closely on the Sensory garden project and I have to say, the Elephant is a welcome addition to the garden that continues to go from strength to strength with a small band of dedicated volunteers.

We held a very well attended Remembrance Service in November at the War Memorial and this year, alongside the usual Sunday event, we plan to host another event on Wednesday November 11th - 'Caister Schools Remember' - which will involve the local schools at both the War Memorial and the Council Hall. It is important that children are aware of the sacrifices made in war and this addition will help support their learning in school.

Last year's Christmas event was the biggest ever and saw the birth of the 'Merry Mistletoe Mini Market' alongside an even bigger 'Light Up Caister'. With Tan Lane closed off, we welcomed local groups to perform with large crowds attending and our very own DJ Danny on stage! The Council Hall housed the mini market which was brimming with festive atmosphere and full of festive cheer. Thanks again to Batchelor Electrical for enabling us to 'Light Up Caister'! The local High Street were involved too as lots opened up for late night shopping and embraced the whole atmosphere of the event. The Lions brought Father Christmas to the party and the Giving Tree was also a huge success with Father Christmas and his helpers delivering presents to every resident at Claremont Care Home. We know how to kick off Christmas in style and we are back again this year – bigger and better!

2026 saw the launch of our new Parish magazine – Caister Community Connect – feedback on the new publication has been wonderful and the refresh has been welcomed with open arms. As always, we welcome parishioner input – send in your photos, ideas for content, if you're a business wanting to advertise – please reach out – we want to hear from you.

Easter Saturday saw our first ever Easter Trail which was a resounding success - attended by over 500 people we handed out over 250 Easter eggs to children completing the trail. Before the doors opened, a queue had formed and the excitement only built further as the Easter Bunny made a special appearance! Once the trail was completed there was even more free fun to be had inside the Hall too including bird box building, seed planting, rock painting and Easter crafts. Another success to be added to our annual events calendar i think!

In the pipeline we have plans for a big Summer event in August and an Autumn event in October plus we hope to also be able to offer a Cycling programme through the Summer Holidays too - more to come on these soon!

Your Parish Council is always working for our village and we always try to be proactive for our village and its parishioners. We have representation on many organisations and groups throughout the village.

We will always fight for our village and for what is right, which sometimes puts us at odds with organisations including the Borough and County Councils, but this is our village and we know what we deserve – often the biggest issue is lack of communication but we are working hard to encourage this from other parties and recently had positive site meetings with both Great Yarmouth Borough Council regarding Beach Road car park and Persimmon Homes regarding the aftermath of the ongoing Norwich Road works.

We have some great people in our village and despite it's growth over the years, I'm sure you'll all agree that we still have real community spirit and that can never be underestimated!

We do have two vacancies currently, so if you are inspired by tonight's event and would like to know more about becoming a Parish Councillor, please speak to myself, one of the other Parish Councillors or the Parish Clerk.

Always remember what a great place Caister is and how lucky we are to live here.

Caister Parish Council – always working tirelessly and doing our best for our village, our community, our home!

Thank you.

5. Reports: Local Community Groups/Organisation

- ❖ Community Sensory Garden
- ❖ Caister WI
- ❖ Caister in Bloom

Issue of Community Awards nomination certificates

- ❖ Holy Trinity Church
- ❖ Caister Cricket Club
- ❖ The Hangout (Caister Youth Club)

Issue of Community Awards nomination certificates

- ❖ Caister Rainbows / Brownies / Guides
- ❖ Men's Shed

Issue of Community Awards nomination certificates

- ❖ Caister Playing Field / Rabbit Hutch
- ❖ Caister Community Association
- ❖ Community Larder / Worship for All

Issue of Community Awards nomination certificates

All groups emphasised that members and volunteers are welcomed/needed. If you would like any more information on any of these groups or organisations, please contact the Parish Clerk who can connect you.

6. Parishioner Comments

Comments received on the success of the event so far. No further comments from parishioners

7. Community Awards Winners

The second Annual Community Awards consisted of three categories:

- ❖ Community Hero (Under 18) - Sponsored by Fenn & Co
- ❖ Community Hero (18 and Over) - Sponsored by Batchelor Electrical Services
- ❖ Spirit of Caister – Sponsored by Oasis Pool

63 individual nominations were received and all nominees present were called up by Cllr Wood to receive their certificates between the group reports at point 5 above.

The first award to be presented was a new one – Community Legacy Award – it was presented by Cllr Wood and Russell Ray (Chair, Caister Playing Field) posthumously to **Joy Hunt** and collected by her son.

The award for Community Hero (Under 18) was presented by Rachel Fenn from award sponsor Fenn & Co and this year, there were two recipients. **Danny Gooda** for his support of local events in the community and **Amelia Roughton** for her volunteering across the community including dance school, litter picks and various events. Both are fantastic role models.

Next up, Rob, Eva and Frankie Batchelor of Batchelor Electrical Services, presented the award for Community Hero (18 and over) to **Sinead Southern**. Sinead was the driving force behind Caister Festival until recently and is also at the heart of lots of community events.

Finally, the Spirit of Caister Award was presented by Cllr Wood on behalf of Oasis Pool, Scratby to **Jackie Beales**. Jackie has been the motivation behind turning Caister Community Sensory Garden from a vision into reality. She will launch a community wide gardening club starting in May and also volunteers at lots of other community events too.

8. Meeting / Event Closed at 20:00.