

News from Caistor St Edmund and Bixley Parish Council

Recreational Space Contribution for Caistor St Edmund and Bixley Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to make parishioners aware that South Norfolk District Council received £62,782.75 in respect of the Recreational Space Contribution (S106 money) for the land West of Octagon Farm, Bungay Road, Bixley, in 2021. This money must be spent by 8 March 2026 on the provision, extension or improvement of indoor or outdoor recreational facilities for adults and/or older children within the parish. This money was originally allocated to be spent in the parish of Bixley and Arminghall only, but since Bixley and Arminghall merged with Caistor St Edmund, the money can be spent anywhere within the now combined parish and can be spent on a single or multiple projects. If the money is not spent by 8 March 2026, then it has to be returned to South Norfolk District Council and we no longer have any claim to it.

Those of you who have attended parish council meetings over the last three years will be aware that we have been discussing various options for spending this money on a community facility for our parish. One option was to put the S106 money towards building a new community building on the proposed Glavenhill development on Caistor Lane (PA 2022/2148). Whilst Glavenhill have made provision for land for a community building within their planning application, this option is no longer viable, as the planning application has not yet been to Planning Committee. Therefore even if planning permission is granted, the land will not be available to us within the timescales for the grant to be spent and the money will be lost.

Another option which has been discussed and investigated over this period is the updating and renovation of Arminghall Village Hall, which is not currently in use, due to its current poor condition. The hall, formerly a Mission Hut of a construction known locally as a "Tin Tabernacle", is said to be "of significance and importance in terms of heritage" and there appears to be local support for this option. We have invited builders to put in quotes to:

Quote 1 – replace the roof and update the hall as it stands to a standard where it could be used again by the public. As currently, there would be no kitchen, toilet facilities or running water. The estimated cost of this work is £7,260. Running costs would need to be covered by the income generated from hiring the hall, with any shortfall being met by the Parish Council (via the precept). We would expect any increase to have a minimal impact on Council Tax bills of no more than a few pence per household per week.

Quote 2 – replace the roof and update the hall to a standard as above but add a kitchen, toilet and sink to the hall, plus a waste treatment plant. The estimated cost of this work is £51,186. Running costs would need to be covered by the income generated, with any shortfall being met by the Parish Council (via the precept). We would expect any increase to have a minimal impact on Council Tax bills of no more than a few pence per household per week.

Note that insurance costs are currently being covered by the Parish Council (via the precept).

It should also be noted that representatives from Crown Point Estates attended our Parish Council meeting on 13 March 2024. The Estate is looking to work with the Parish Council to potentially help improve the village hall (possibly by providing a car park for the hall), whilst proposing a small development of approximately 8 properties within Arminghall. The Parish Council is considering the proposal and further discussions will be held at a later date. Copies of the Estate's presentation are available to view on the Parish Council website <https://cseandbpc.wixsite.com/cseandbpc>.

We would be interested to hear your views on the above, and would also like to hear if you have any suggestions for other projects which could benefit the parish to make full use of this grant. Our next Parish Council meeting is due to be held on 8 May 2024, 7.00pm at Poringland village

hall (the green hut) and we would welcome your attendance and views at this meeting, or beforehand to Yvonne Wonnacott, Parish Clerk, email csepc@hotmail.co.uk.

If the village hall is restored and able to be used again by the public, volunteers will be needed to help run the hall and we would be pleased to hear from you if you would like to volunteer for this role. Please contact Yvonne Wonnacott, the Parish Clerk on csepc@hotmail.co.uk or 01508 493134.

Councillor Vacancies

- ✓ **Do you care about where you live?**
- ✓ **Passionate to help make it even better?**
- ✓ **Want to be part of a decision-making group that influences what goes on in your area?**

If you would like to help make a difference to your local community, why not step forward.

This is an exciting and rewarding opportunity to help shape the area in which you live, for now and for the future, comment on local planning applications, support community projects and generally help improve the lives of Caistor St Edmund and Bixley Parish Council residents. No experience is necessary for this role, and the commitment required is not onerous - we normally meet just six times per financial year as standard practice, normally on a Wednesday at 7.00pm at Poringland village hall. Communication in-between meetings takes place through e-mail.

If you would like more information about this role, please contact Yvonne Wonnacott, the Parish Clerk on csepc@hotmail.co.uk or 01508 493134 and she will be happy to discuss this with you and answer any questions you may have. Alternatively speak to a member of the Parish Council.

More information about Caistor St Edmund and Bixley Parish Council and becoming a Councillor can also be found on our website, here:

<https://cseandbpc.wixsite.com/cseandbpcpc/the-role-of-a-councillor>

Proposed Speed Awareness Machine (SAM2) for Arminghall and Bixley

You may be aware that the Parish Council has a SAM2 (Speed Awareness Machine) operating in the Caistor St Edmund area of the parish to encourage vehicle users to reduce speeds, improve safety and enable us to collate important statistical records, which we pass on to the local Police. A proposal has been put to the Parish Council to consider the acquisition of an additional SAM2 to operate in the Arminghall and Bixley area of the parish. The Parish Council has agreed to consider this proposal as part of the 2025/26 budget process. If an additional SAM2 is acquired it will be essential to have a group of volunteers who would be prepared to assist with the day-to-day operation of the SAM2. This includes the charging of the battery, re-location of the machine and collection of data. An additional SAM2 would not be a feasible option without the help and support of volunteers. If this is something you would consider and be interested in please contact Yvonne Wonnacott, the Parish Clerk on csepc@hotmail.co.uk or 01508 493134 and she will be happy to discuss this with you and answer any questions you may have. Alternatively speak to a member of the Parish Council.

Kind regards

Jeanette Utting
Chair of Caistor St Edmund and Bixley Parish Council

April 2024