

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE
CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE PADDOCKS, LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND ON
MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2009 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: D. Blackwell (Chairman)
D. Anderson J. Anderson B. Dixie P. Greig
N. Harvey (Vice –Chairman) R. Howard J. Liddiard

Also present: Borough Councillors Neville Watson (from 7.40pm), seven members of the public

Mrs J. Abel – Town Clerk

122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. P. Davies who had a work commitment and Cllr. N. Pontius who was unwell.

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. J. Liddiard declared a personal interest in item 127 by virtue of the fact that she was employed by the Citizens Advice Bureau and a personal interest in item 140 by virtue of the fact that one of the companies which had provided a quote for works had carried out work for her husband.

124. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public raised strong concerns about the over use of paper by the Borough Council. He went on to raise further concerns about the level of local representation and the value of the Town Council. A further representation was received about the poor condition of the Paddocks community facilities particularly when compared to the Runnymede Hall facilities in Benfleet.

125. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th January 2009 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

126. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH JANUARY 2009

Item 110. Formation of Personnel Committee

Cllr. Dixie raised concerns that the Personnel Committee had not yet met. The Clerk explained that the Council needed to agree the Committee's terms of reference and that a draft had been sent to all Committee Chairmen for consideration prior to the next Council meeting. Cllr. Dixie requested that the Personnel Committee's terms of reference were agreed at an early opportunity.

RESOLVED that an extraordinary Council meeting is held at 6.30pm on 16th March to consider the terms of reference of the Personnel Committee.

Item 104/91 Christmas Festivities

The Clerk was asked to provide an update on the installation of replacement lamp columns in the Town Centre. Councillors noted that works would be completed by 11th March and would be carried out overnight to avoid disruption in the Town.

Item 102 Public Forum – War Memorial

The Clerk was asked to provide an update in respect of correspondence sent to the Chief Executive Officer at CPBC regarding the relocation of the War Memorial at The Paddocks. Councillors noted that a written response had not been received to the Council's request that a meeting be arranged between the Council, the RBL and the Borough Council. However, the Clerk reported that the Chief Executive had advised that Cllr. Howard was progressing this matter.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes again to CPBC to press strongly for a meeting to be arranged between Town Councillors, the RBL and CPBC.

127. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

i) ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2009 were presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. John Anderson.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee meeting attached as appendix A are approved as a correct record of the meeting and the recommendations therein are adopted by the Council.

Item 13 Canvey Lake

The Council briefly considered the amount of debris in and around the Lake.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to CPBC to request that the Fishing Club is asked to clear debris from the Lake.

ii) POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2009 were presented by a member of the Committee, Cllr. J. Liddiard in the absence of the Chairman.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting attached as Appendix B are approved as a correct record and the recommendations therein are adopted by the Council.

128. DISPLAY BOARDS

The Council considered quotes provided by the Clerk for the purchase of display boards.

RESOLVED that the Council agrees expenditure not exceeding £400 + VAT for the purchase of display boards.

129. CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Clerk reported correspondence from the CAB requesting the periodic use of the Council's foyer to promote its activities to the community.

RESOLVED that the Council advises the CAB that it may make use of the foyer to promote its activities subject to prior agreement by the Town Clerk.

130. HESTER PLAQUE

Cllr. Liddiard reported that verbal agreement had been granted by Barbara Taylor of Hilton Road Baptist Church to erect a plaque to commemorate the life of Frederick Hester.

RESOLVED the Clerk to write to Barbara Taylor to seek written permission to erect the plaque on the Baptist Church building in Hilton Road.

131. GRANT CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read a letter from the Island Boys and Girls Club expressing thanks for the Council's grant towards the installation of a new kitchen facility.

132. HIGHWAYS LOCALITY PANEL

Members noted a report provided by Cllr. Rod Bishop of a meeting held on 19th January 2009.

133. APPOINTMENT OF CLLR. PONTIUS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Councillor Pontius was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. The Council felt that she should be appointed to the committees which Cllr. Christine Andrews had been appointed to prior to her death.

RESOLVED that Cllr. N. Pontius is appointed to the membership of the Community Relations and Planning Committee.

134. EALC PEER REVIEW

Councillors discussed at length the merits and drawbacks of appointing the EALC to carry out a Peer Review. The Clerk advised that a review of the Council's processes by an external body could be beneficial for the Council and would offer reassurance to councillors, staff and residents that the Council was operating satisfactorily. Concerns were expressed about the amount of staff time which might be taken in pursuing this as some councillors felt that Council staff should be progressing other Council projects.

Cllr. Dixie proposed the motion that the Council does not carry out a Peer Review. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Blackwell.

The motion was put to the vote and was lost with four votes in favour and five votes against.

Cllr. Harvey proposed an amendment to the motion that the Council agrees in principle to carrying out a Peer Review on some aspects of its operation in line with the Clerk's advice and that an indication of costs be obtained.

The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Howard.

RESOLVED that the Council agrees in principle to carrying out a Peer Review on some aspects of its operation in line with the Clerk's advice and that an indication of costs be obtained.

135. DISTRICT ASSOCIATION SCHEME

Councillors noted the offer by the EALC to attend a future Council meeting to provide sector updates and other relevant information as part of the DAS.

RESOLVED the Clerk to advise the EALC that the Council would like a representative to attend a future meeting.

136. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Council considered dates on which to call the Annual Town Meeting.

RESOLVED that the Annual Town Meeting be held at the Paddocks on 27th April 2009.

137. CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL CIVIC SERVICE

The Clerk reported an invitation from ECC to all councillors to attend a Civic Service on 26th March. The Clerk requested that councillors advised the Office by 6th March if they wished to attend in order that the Clerk could advise ECC.

138. TRAINING

Councillors noted training events relating to the Code of Conduct at CPBC on 5th March and two councillor training courses at EALC on 26th March and 1st April 2009.

139. FINANCE

Members noted the financial report circulated with the agenda provided for expenditure in December 2008.

RESOLVED that the Council agrees net expenditure of £13,909.82 in December 2008.

Members considered a report of the Council's year to date income and expenditure, budget performance, investments and bank balances which had been deferred from the Policy and Finance Committee meeting on 16th March 2009.

140. REPORTS FROM CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Liddiard reported that she had visited Thorney Bay and had found the beach to be pleasantly clean and tidy.

Cllr. Anderson reported that a meeting was to take place on 4th March with officers from CPBC to progress the installation of Bumblebee Park. A meeting of the Canvey Lake steering group was also taking place on 25th March.

141. REPORTS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Howard reported that the next South Essex Area Forum meeting would take place at the Oysterfleet Pub, Canvey Island on 17th March.

He went on to advise of the success of the pink bag recycling scheme in the Borough and the discussions which were underway to increase kerbside collections to include food and green waste.

*The Council **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960, the public and press would be excluded from the remainder of this meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

142. BUS SHELTERS

Members considered quotations for work for the installation of end panels to a bus shelter in Eastern Esplanade. The Clerk advised that ECC had approved the specification for works provided by each of the contractors.

RESOLVED to appoint Wilson Tools to carry out works at a cost of £895 + VAT.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

CHAIRMAN

