

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE
CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, WAARDEN ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND ON MONDAY

7TH JULY 2008 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT:

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

Also present: Borough Councillors Peter May and Janice Payne, eight members of the public, one member of the press
Mrs J. Abel – Town Clerk

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. C. Andrews who was unwell.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

41. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public wished to scrutinise the Council's accounts but was unable to attend during the times advertised as part of the audit process. It was suggested that he came into the Council office at the time of a Councillor Saturday surgery.

42. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th May 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

43. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH MAY 2008

Item 19. Chairman's Chain of Office

The Clerk was asked to update on progress with this. It was reported that two quotes had been obtained and a further quote was awaited. These would be reported to the next Policy and Finance Committee meeting.

Item 20. Canvey Lake

It was reported that the feasibility study was nearing completion and that a meeting was to take place the following day to progress matters through the steering group.

44. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 22nd May 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

45. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 22ND MAY 2008

None.

46. MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 2nd June 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

47. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND JUNE 2008

None.

48. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

i) ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2008 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 and the recommendations therein are adopted by the Council.

ii) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2008 were presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Barry Dixie.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting attached as Appendix B and the recommendations therein are adopted by the Council.

iii) COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2008 were presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Joan Liddiard.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Relations Committee meeting attached as Appendix C and the recommendations therein are adopted by the Council.

49. PLANNING

There were no planning applications to be considered.

52. WATERSIDE FARM ROUNDABOUT – DRAGONFLY SCULPTURE

It was reported that a site was being sought to erect a dragonfly sculpture which had been commissioned by the organization, Buglife, originally for erection at Canvey Wick. It was thought that this location was no longer appropriate due to fears that the sculpture would be stolen. A proposal had been put to ECC and CPBC that the sculpture could be erected on the Waterside Farm roundabout at the entry point to the Island to mark the significant environmental and ecological projects which were underway nearby.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to ECC to seek formal permission to erect the sculpture on the roundabout.

53. SEAFRONT GARDENS – BUMBLEBEE PARK

It was reported that a meeting had taken place with the Partnerships Manager at CPBC to discuss the completion of the Bumblebee Park Project – a scheme to celebrate the Shril Carder Bee on Canvey Island which had involved local schoolchildren in the creation of bee-themed art and landscape work. It had been suggested that the artwork created and associated funding could be used to upgrade the fountain gardens at the seafront. It was proposed that the centre part of the existing fountain structure would be removed and replaced with the hard landscaping created by the children. The Town Council was keen to be involved in the project and wished to ensure that following its completion an adequate maintenance programme was adopted. It was suggested that the Town Council could offer to take responsibility for this aspect.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to CPBC to express its support for the scheme and willingness to work in partnership. The Clerk to advise CPBC that the Town Council would be willing to take responsibility for the future maintenance of the area subject to its approval of the final landscape and planting design.

53. TOWN CENTRE PLANTERS

It was reported that a site meeting had taken place in the Town Centre when members of the Environment and Open Spaces committee had concluded that the best location for the planters would be on the east side of Furtherwick Road outside the Knightswick Centre. The Committee had agreed a planter design but the Clerk had reported that the cost of these was in excess of the budget set for the project. The revised

cost was estimated to be no more than £8000 + VAT which included the cost of lettering and the Council's Coat of Arms on the planters. The Council considered the wording it wished to have displayed.

Members noted that the Knightswick Centre had been approached to gain permission to site the planters on its land. A request had also been put to the Centre that it considered contributing to the scheme which, it was hoped, would improve the visual amenity for shoppers in the Town. It was reported that an agreement had been reached that the Knightswick Centre would make a 50% contribution to the cost of planting and maintenance of the plants.

RESOLVED that:

- the Council agrees an increased budget for the project of £8000 + VAT;
- the Clerk orders six black and gold planters displaying the wording ' Canvey Island Town Council – 2008' and the Council's coat of arms.

54. LAMP COLUMN REPLACEMENT – TOWN CENTRE

Members noted that a site meeting had taken place with ECC Highways Engineer to establish the lamp columns which required replacement to accommodate the proposed festive lighting scheme and hanging baskets. Ten columns in Furtherwick Road had been identified as the first part of a two phase scheme. The Clerk reported that a contribution of £9000 would be required from the Town Council to achieve this as the Council had requested that the replacement columns were more ornate than the standard ECC installation.

RESOLVED that the Clerk advises ECC that the Council is willing to make a contribution of £9000 towards the first phase of the scheme to see upgraded lighting columns in the Town Centre.

The Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with Rayleigh Town Council to look at town centre improvements on 17th July at 10am.

55. CASTLEPOINT REGENERATION PANEL

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr. Blackwell had now been invited to attend the monthly Panel meetings. Mark Evershed, ECC Regeneration Manager, had met with the Clerk to update on the broad objectives of the long term scheme. The Clerk had been invited to represent the Council at steering group meetings looking at public service provision and improvements to business and commercial issues in the Borough. Members of the Council were advised that the Panel meetings minutes were confidential and could therefore not be circulated. The Council discussed ways in which communication with CPBC and the Panel could be improved to enable greater Council understanding. It was suggested that Mark Evershed could be asked to meet with the Council on a regular basis to ensure that members were kept apprised of the key issues.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to Mark Evershed to request that he regularly meets with the Town Council to keep it briefed of regeneration issues affecting Canvey Island.

56. RESCHEDULING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was reported that two committee meetings which the Council had agreed as part of its annual meeting schedule were in conflict with two meetings at the Borough Council.

RESOLVED to reschedule the meeting of the Planning/Environment and Open Spaces committee on 21st July 2008 and the meeting of the Planning/Community Relations committee on 29th September. The Clerk to establish councillor availability after the meeting.

57. WITHDRAWAL OF PAYPHONE PROVISION, SOMNES AVENUE

The Council had been advised by CPBC that BT were proposing to remove the public payphone on Somnes Avenue as it felt that it was under used. The Council was concerned that elderly residents in the area or those without a mobile phone would wish the service to be retained.

RESOLVED to advise BT and CPBC that the Council objected to the proposal that the payphone be removed.

58. COUNCIL OFFICE – PANIC BUTTON INSTALLATION

Cllr. Davies, Chairman of the Policy and Finance committee, outlined concerns about staff safety and the Council's duty of care to its employees, particularly those who find themselves regularly in a lone working environment. The cost of panic button installation in the Council Office by the Council's security equipment supplier was quoted to be not more than £214 + VAT.

RESOLVED that the Council installs panic buttons in the Council Office which are linked to Essex Police and the internal intruder alarm.

59. COUNCILLOR TRAINING

The Clerk advised councillors of two forthcoming training events organized by the EALC. It was also reported that it was hoped that Code of Conduct training would be delivered by the CPBC Monitoring Officer shortly when suitable dates were identified.

RESOLVED that:

- no councillors wished to attend EALC training on this occasion;
- all councillors would endeavour to attend code of conduct training.

60. COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND (YOUTH)

The Clerk reported that information had been received from ECC highlighting funding of up to £150,000 for each Essex borough which the Town Council was eligible to apply for.

Cllr. Anderson, Chairman of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee, outlined the progress being made to develop provision for young people at the Waterside skateboard park. The use of the bungalow, formerly occupied by Swan housing, for a youth project was currently being investigated and, it was thought, could be the subject of a funding bid put to CIF (youth).

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk works with officers from CPBC and ECC to progress a funding application to CIF (youth) subject to approval by CPBC that the building is available for this use.

61. RIGHT OF WAY CLAIM

Cllr. Ray Howard declared a prejudicial interest in this item by virtue of the fact that it related to a member of his family. He left the room while the matter was discussed.

The Clerk outlined a resident's complaint with regard to a fence which it was reported had been erected in Dalen Avenue blocking a public right of way. A site visit had been carried out by Cllrs. Blackwell and Anderson who supported the resident's complaint.

RESOLVED the Clerk to write to ECC to advise that the Council supports the resident's complaint and that a fence is blocking a public right of way.

Cllr. Howard rejoined the meeting.

62. FINANCE

Councillors received details of net payments of £19,844.76 made in May 2008.

RESOLVED that payments made in May 2008 are approved.

63. REPORTS FROM CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. John Anderson reported residents' observations that the newly erected bandstand at the seafront would be of more benefit to local people if it was put to some use.

Cllr. Barry Dixie reported that the gates at Canvey Heights were not being closed at night and subsequently nuisance motorbikes were accessing the area causing environmental damage.

64. REPORTS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Ray Howard reported that Cllrs. Peter Greig and Rod Bishop had attended the recent South Essex Area Forum.

Cllr. Howard outlined action taken in respect of recent signage erected to advertise the overnight road closure on Canvey Way whilst improvement works are being carried out. He felt that the degree of notification and advertising of the closure had been unacceptable on such a major Island route.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8.48pm to receive a contribution from the Canvey Island Royal British Legion. The meeting was reconvened at 9.03pm.

*In accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960, the Council **RESOLVED** that the public and press 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*

65. SEAFRONT GARDENS

The Clerk had anticipated that three quotes would be available for consideration but it was only possible to present two as a third contractor had been unable to provide a quotation in time for the meeting.

RESOLVED to defer this matter to the next meeting of the Environment and Open Spaces Committee.

66. CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL – DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Councillors were provided with copy correspondence from the EALC regarding Development Works. A request for payment had been received for £5679.76.

RESOLVED the Clerk to write to the EALC and request information to support the invoices and to defer payment at this stage.

67. STAFFING - CONFIRMATION OF TOWN CLERK'S APPOINTMENT

The Town Clerk left the room for the Council's consideration of this item.

RESOLVED the appointment of the Town Clerk is confirmed with immediate effect.

68. TOWN CLERK – PROVISION OF MOBILE PHONE

It was reported that the cost of the Clerk's phone contract would be £25 + VAT per month for a period of 18 months from June 2008.

RESOLVED that the Clerk is reimbursed for variable costs incurred in line with a £25 per month mobile phone contract.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

CHAIRMAN