

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
OF THE CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, WAARDEN ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND ON
MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2008 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors (Committee Members): J. Liddiard (Chairman) D. Anderson
D. Blackwell R. Howard

Non-committee members: Cllrs J. Anderson R. Bishop B. Dixie P.
Greig

Also present: County Cllr. Mark Howard, Borough Cllr. Neville Watson (until 8pm)
Mrs J. Abel – Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C. Andrews and N. Harvey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were received.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

County Cllr. Mark Howard asked the Council if it could assist with the resurfacing of unadopted roads on the Island. The Clerk was asked to put this matter on a future agenda.

Borough Cllr. Neville Watson spoke of his belief that the Town Council should form a working partnership with the local Neighbourhood Forums.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4TH AUGUST 2008

Item 5.11. Coat of Arms/Corporate Identity

The Clerk reported that the certification for the completion of the coat of arms transfer had been received.

Item 5.12. Councillor Surgeries

Members noted that a surgery had not taken place on 4th October due to difficulties with the rota. The Clerk advised that a list of forthcoming surgery dates had been compiled and would be advertised in the Council Office and circulated to all Town Councillors. Cllr. Liddiard agreed to draw up a rota and councillors were asked to provide their availability for forthcoming dates to her.

Item 11 Bus Services

The Clerk advised that a response had been received from ECC in respect of the Council's enquiries into providing a service from the Town Centre to Morrisons and extending the service along Eastern Esplanade in the evenings.

ECC advised that there was no intention of reintroducing the service to Morrisons and that the extension of the evening service along Eastern Esplanade could only be considered if the Council could introduce crime prevention measures to prevent vandalism of buses.

5. CRIME REDUCTION

Members of the Committee were very concerned about the apparent escalation in youth crime and disorder on the Island.

RECOMMEND that a public meeting is called before Christmas to address issues of crime and disorder and that Essex Police, Essex Fire Service, CDRP and ECC Youth Service are asked to attend.

6. TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The Clerk provided an update on the replacement lamp column installation.

Letters had been sent to all the Island's schools to invite them to take part in the lead up to Christmas by sending a choir to sing Christmas Carols outside the Canvey library.

Members were advised that if the Council wished to invite dance schools to take part it would be necessary to apply for an events license. The Clerk was asked to establish the cost of this.

A meeting had been arranged at the Oysterfleet Hotel jointly with Mike Machin, Canvey Island Traders Association, and all Knightswick Road and High Street traders had been invited to attend.

The Clerk reported that the Council had been asked to support the Island Boys and Girls Club who were organizing a sponsored Santa walk on Sunday 7th December from 12noon. A request had been received from the Club that councillors take part and attend a barbecue to be held after the event at Smallgains. The Clerk had sought information about the closing of Furtherwick Road from Labworth Park and had advised the organizers of the sponsored walk that this could be done to ensure public safety.

The Clerk had also gained information about street entertainers which could be brought in at a cost of £350+ per day for each act.

RECOMMEND that:

- In the event that a window dressing competition is held, the Council offers a prize to the best dressed Christmas shop window of a Christmas light designed by the winner with a maximum cost of £500;
- that the preferred date for the Christmas tree light switch on is 29th November;
- the Council delegates a budget of £1000 for Christmas related activities to the Clerk to progress plans in conjunction with the Chairman of the Council and the Committee.

7. TOWN CENTRE CHRISTMAS TREE

The Clerk reported that the cost of providing a 20' tree in the Town would cost an additional £50 resulting in a total cost of £250. The cost of the additional lighting for the larger tree was £486 plus VAT. The Clerk pointed out that this was the final year of the lighting contract and that it would need to be renegotiated in 2009.

RECOMMEND that the Council meets the additional cost of £536 for a larger Christmas Tree and associated lighting.

8. CANVEY FESTIVAL

The Clerk reported that letters had been sent to eight local organizations and six expressions of interest in taking part had been received to date. The Clerk had talked with the organizer of the Barleylands Country Fair who had offered to meet with the organizing committee to give some initial guidance.

The Clerk had contacted entertainment agencies who had advised that an event could be organized with a budget of £15,000.

It was felt that sponsorship could be sought for the event from local businesses and shops.

9. CANVEY'S GOT TALENT

Councillors noted a resident's idea to hold a talent competition on the Island.

AGREED that Mr Hyde is invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to provide further information.

10. WAR MEMORIAL

The Clerk read correspondence from CPBC in response to the Council's letter suggesting that it took over the maintenance of the garden area. CPBC had recently commenced short term improvement works on the memorial and gardens following its announcement that the Memorial would not be redeveloped on the Paddocks site. The Council felt that there was still an opportunity for it to take responsibility for the maintenance of the garden area to ensure it was maintained to a high standard.

Cllr. Grieg reported that he was aware of petitions in local shops campaigning for the Memorial to stay at The Paddocks.

AGREED that the matter is reviewed following the Remembrance Service in November.

11. BUS SHELTER GRANT

The Chairman reported that the shelters that were available from ECC through its grant scheme would not match those already installed. It was suggested that an engineering company could be contracted to make improvements to the shelter at the junction between Seaview Road and Eastern Esplanade. It was also suggested that ECC may be willing to make a contribution to a shelter of the Council's choosing. The Clerk advised that an application would need to be made by the end of the year.

AGREED that:

- councillors submit locations for new shelters to the Clerk by the end of October to enable the proposals to be assessed by a highways engineer;
- the Clerk establishes whether an engineering company could make improvements to the bus shelter at the end of Seaview Road.

12. WORKING WITH THE CPBC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS

Councillors were in receipt of a report of the meeting held between the Chairman of the Council, the Clerk, the Chairmen of the Canvey East and West Neighbourhood Forums and CPBC Officers held on 4th September 2008 to discuss the possibility of working together to deliver community projects. The Town Council felt that there would need to be some consideration given to appropriate projects, phasing of schemes and the arrangements for maintenance following project delivery.

RECOMMEND that the Town Council works jointly with the Borough Council through the local Neighbourhood Forums and assists with appropriate community projects.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

CHAIRMAN

