

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

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

MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2008 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT:

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

Also present: Four members of the public, one member of the press (from 7.50pm)
Mrs J. Abel – Town Clerk

82. COUNCILLOR MRS CHRISTINE ANDREWS

The Chairman asked the Council and public present to stand for one minutes silence to mark the recent death of Cllr. Mrs Christine Andrews.

The Council spoke about Cllr. Andrews' strong belief in local democracy and her tireless campaigning on local issues. She had been passionate about her seat on the Town Council and will be greatly missed by councillors and the community she represented.

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members of the Council were present.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

85. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no public representations.

86. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

87. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2008

None.

88. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

i) ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 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 are a true record and signed by the Chairman and that the recommendations therein are agreed by the Council.

ii) PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings held on 6th and 13th October 2008 were presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Barry Dixie.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings attached as Appendix B and D are a true record and signed by the Chairman and the resolutions therein are noted by the Council.

iii) COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2008 were presented the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Joan Liddiard.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Relations Committee meeting attached as Appendix C are a true record and signed by the Chairman and the recommendations therein are agreed by the Council with the following exception:

5. Crime Reduction

The '*RECOMMENDATION 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*' was referred back to the Committee in view of the fact that a meeting had been held at The Paddocks on 23rd October to consider antisocial behaviour at King George's Playing Fields

iv) POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2008 were presented by a member of the Committee, Cllr.R. Bishop, who had acted as Chairman for the meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting attached as Appendix E are a true record and signed by the Chairman and the recommendations therein are agreed by the Council with the following exception:

Item 9 Staff Contract requirements

The '*RECOMMENDATION that grievance and appeals panels are formed and that members are appointed to them at the next Council meeting*' was not accepted in the light of advice from the Essex Association of Local Councils provided by the Clerk.

RESOLVED that the Chairman, Clerk and two members of the Council meet with the EALC to discuss the terms of reference of a personnel committee.

89. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had circulated a report of meetings attended on behalf of the Council during September and October 2008.

Councillors discussed ways in which parking charges could be waived in the Town Centre over the Christmas period.

The Clerk advised that Steve Rogers from CPBC would be attending the next Council Meeting on 5th January to update the Council on issues relating to regeneration on the Island.

Councillors noted that Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras had been installed on Canvey Way and Ferry Road.

90. CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk explained the process for filling the casual vacancy resulting from Cllr. Andrews recent death. Councillors noted that, in the event that an election was held, the likely cost would be in the region of £5,000.

91. CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

The Clerk confirmed that Saturday 29th November would be the date of the light switch on in the Town.

The Clerk reported that costs had been obtained for:

- the provision and installation of a second Christmas tree and lights in the town centre, outside the Library (£2,607)
- the attendance of the Thundersley Brass Band (£450);
- Kimberlyn – an Essex' Got Talent singing finalist (£200);
- Three Street entertainers (£1,285)
- An event notice (£21).

The total cost would be in the region of £5,000. Costs were still awaited for the erection of a marquee outside the Library.

RESOLVED that the Council approves the above expenditure and sets a budget of £5,000 which is delegated to the Clerk, to be spent in consultation with the Chairman and Chairman of the Community relations committee for the provision of Christmas festivities.

Cllr. Ray Howard provided an update on the installation of the new lamp columns in the Town Centre. It was understood that these were not likely to be in place in time for the erection of the festive lighting. Councillors expressed frustration and disappointment as the columns had been sanctioned through the Highways Locality Panel in July 2008. Cllr. Howard advised that he would be speaking with Lord Hanningfield about this matter.

92. HIGHWAYS LOCALITY PANEL

i) ITEMS TO BE PUT TO THE NEXT MEETING

Members considered five proposals for highways works from members of the community.

RESOLVED that the following highways issues are presented to the Panel through the Council's representative, Cllr. R. Bishop:

- Craven Avenue – Traffic calming
- Pavement in High Street, near the Knightswick Centre – poorly positioned dropped kerb making crossing dangerous for disability vehicles.;
- Dovervelt Road – Speeding traffic;
- Dyke Crescent – Parked cars on either side of the road restricting vehicle flow;
- Marine Parade/Park Avenue – Replacement bollards required and inadequate street lighting

ii) DELEGATION OF POWER TO RAISE ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE HIGHWAYS PANEL

RESOLVED that the Environment and Open Spaces Committee is delegated the power to raise issues with the Highways Panel via the Council's representative if necessary.

93. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005

The Clerk had circulated a written report of the implications of the Act and the issues which the Council would need to consider in utilizing the powers contained within it.

RESOLVED that a working party meeting is arranged between the members of the Environment and Open Spaces committee, the Clerk, Ian Burchill, CPBC, and Chief Inspector Paul Eveleigh, Essex Police to explore the opportunity of partnership working to tackle dog fouling, graffiti and litter.

94. PURCHASE OF MEETING ROOM FURNITURE

The Clerk reported preliminary costs for the purchase of furniture for use by the Council for its meetings at The Paddocks.

RESOLVED to delegate a budget of £1500 to the Clerk for the purchase of meeting room furniture in consultation with the Chairman.

95. FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree July net expenditure of £11,934.85 and August net expenditure of £14,696.87.

96. MEMBERSHIP OF POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors discussed the membership of the committee noting that it currently consisted of three members and two ex-officio members being the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. It was felt that the operation of the committee could be compromised through its low membership particularly if it was not possible to achieve a quorum at a meeting.

The Clerk suggested that the membership could be amended to include all committee chairmen. It was felt that this could be of benefit during the consideration of the draft budget by the committee when committee chairmen could present project bids included in the budget. Cllr. John Anderson indicated that he did not wish to be a member of the committee although he is the chairman of the Environment and Open Spaces committee due to other commitments.

RESOLVED that:

- ordinarily the membership of the Policy and Finance committee includes the chairmen of the Council's committees;
- the following councillors are appointed to the membership of the committee:

Cllr. P. Davies (Chairman)
Cllr. R. Bishop
Cllr. B. Dixie
Cllr. R. Howard
Cllr. J. Liddiard

97. REPORTS FROM CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

None were received.

98. REPORTS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. R. Howard reported on the current situation in respect of the issue of safety of passing road users at the Sadlers Farm Bootsale. He advised that the Fire Authority and Basildon District Council had been involved with issues and that the Police had taken some enforcement action. The matter would be considered at the next South Essex Area Forum meeting.

The issue of switching off street-lighting over night in some districts was raised. The Clerk was asked to establish further information about this.

RESOLVED that this matter is considered at the next Environment and Open Spaces meeting and that the Committee is delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Council and advise the Council's response in writing to County Cllr. Ray Howard.

CHAIRMAN