

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE OF THE CANVEY ISLAND
TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE PADDOCKS, LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND ON
MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2009 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: J. Anderson (Chairman)
R. Bishop B. Dixie P. Greig N. Harvey R. Howard
J. Liddiard

Non-committee members: D. Anderson D. Blackwell P. Davies N. Pontius

Also present: Borough Councillors Peter May and Neville Watson
Mrs J. Abel – Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Borough Councillor Neville Watson raised concerns about a proposal to install traffic lights on the roundabout at the junction of Climmen Road and Central Wall Road. He asked for an update on the transfer of Canvey Lake to the Town Council. Cllr. Anderson responded to his queries.

A resident of Climmen Road presented a petition to the Committee supporting a proposal to install traffic lights on the roundabout at the junction of Climmen Road and Central Wall Road.

The Committee received a short presentation from Adam Jenkins, Essex County Council Public Rights of Way officer, about the Town Paths Partnership. The Committee noted that Mr Jenkins worked with volunteers and landowners on footpath related projects such as waymarking, improved access and the promotion of routes. Mr Jenkins advised that if the Town Council was interested in pursuing this ECC could deliver training to the Clerk and councillors.

4. ALLOTMENTS

Peter Harding, the chairman of the Canvey Island Horticultural Society, made a short presentation to the Committee.

It was noted that there were 104 plots which were all let. 68 residents were on the waiting list.

Mr Harding asked the Committee to consider making improvements to the parking arrangements for plot holders at Waterside Farm as the road access was very rutted and sometimes impassable. It was felt that the use of the road by Transco vehicles had made the road condition worse.

AGREED to:

- contact Transco to request its assistance in repairing the access road
- Request that CPBC permits allotment holders to use the parking facilities at The Farmhouse at the weekend.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19TH JANUARY 2009

Item 4.7 Creeky Woods – Design a Sign

The Clerk advised that a meeting had taken place with Design 4 Print which had confirmed that it could work with the designs provided by the children at Northwick Park primary school to produce a sign for Creeky Woods. The Clerk was awaiting preliminary designs and costs.

Item 4. 13i) Lamp Column replacement

It was reported that four lamp columns had now been erected but that ECC was experiencing difficulties with the installation which had caused further delays.

Item 12 Sustainable Development

Cllr. Anderson advised that new recycling bins had been installed in the Town Centre. Members were disappointed that the Borough Council had not given the Town Council an opportunity to have any input on this matter.

The Clerk reported that the draft environmental and sustainability policies had not yet been prepared.

Item 17. Seafront Gardens

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had not yet agreed to the Town Council's proposal that it assisted the Borough with maintenance of the area in the future using the Borough's contractor, Pinnacle. The Committee was advised that the matter would now be put to the CPBC Cabinet on 21st April 2009. Members were frustrated about the delays feeling that they would not be beneficial for the proposed planting improvements.

6. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr. Rod Bishop advised that the recent meeting had reported on improvements at Sadlers Farm, the A13 and works on Roscommon Way. Councillors noted proposals for a crossing at Deepwater Road and a scheme for clearing drains across the Island.

Concerns were raised about the taxi rank outside the Canvey Library and the way that this was abused by car drivers in a dangerous manner.

AGREED the Clerk to contact Cllr. Alf Partridge to raise the issue of the taxi rank through the Locality Panel.

8. SKATEBOARD PARK/BUNGALOW

Cllr. Anderson reported on his recent attendance at a meeting to discuss the Teen Cafe project. Councillors noted that a draft agreement had been drawn up between ECC, CPBC the Town Council and Legacy. It was anticipated that the works would be completed by April to enable the project to be launched shortly afterwards. The Committee noted that there had been a difficulty with part of the ECC funding which had caused the patio installation to be delayed.

9. TEWKES CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Members noted a report of a meeting held between Town Council representatives and the Environment Agency on 28th January to discuss proposals for improvements to Tewkes Creek. Some members of the Council had seen works being carried out at Tewkes Creek and were concerned that the Environment Agency had not yet provided a plan of the proposed scheme.

AGREED the Clerk to contact the Environment Agency to ask that a plan of the proposed scheme is sent to the Council as soon as possible.

10. TREE PLANTING SCHEMES

Councillors noted that volunteers from the Canvey Island Wildlife Group together with councillors had planted 950 trees at Canvey Heights during February. There were a further 730 trees to plant

at specified locations around Canvey Lake. In view of the size of the trees, it was considered necessary to contract assistance to dig the tree holes. The Clerk reported that King and Co had indicated the cost of providing two men and equipment to be £350 per day.

RECOMMEND that the Council appoints King and Co to assist the volunteers to plant trees for a two day period at a cost of £700.

11. DOG FOULING

A report of a meeting held on 11th February 2009 to discuss options for tackling dog fouling on the seafront was noted. Councillors discussed inviting an officer from Eastbourne or Southend Borough Council's to the Annual Town Meeting to speak on the subject of Dog Control Orders.

Cllrs. John Anderson, Nick Harvey and the Clerk had attended a meeting on 16th March, immediately prior to the committee meeting, with CPBC officers and Cllr. Peter Burch, CPBC Cabinet member for Leisure and Open Spaces, to discuss the possibilities of working in partnership with the Borough Council.

AGREED to:

- defer further consideration of this item until a written meeting report is obtained for the meeting
- invite an officer from Eastbourne or Southend Borough Council to the Annual Town Meeting to speak on the subject of Dog Control Orders.

12. WILDLIFE EVENT

Councillors considered the date set for the event which had been scheduled to take place in May. In the light of other events in the Council diary such as the Annual Town Meeting in April and the Armed Forces Day in June it was proposed that the event be delayed. It was suggested that it could take place in July.

Councillors asked that a further meeting of the Environment and Conservation Forum be called to progress the organization of the event

AGREED that the Wildlife Event is delayed until later in the year.

13. CANVEY LAKE

Councillors were very frustrated that the transfer of responsibility for the Lake's management had not yet been resolved with the Borough Council. Members felt that an urgent meeting should be held between Town Council representatives, David Marchant (Chief Executive Officer, CPBC), Ian Burchill (Director of Environment, CPBC) and Peter Burch, CPBC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Open Spaces.

AGREED that a meeting is arranged between Town Council representatives, David Marchant (Chief Executive Officer, CPBC), Ian Burchill (Director of Environment, CPBC) and Peter Burch, CPBC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Open Spaces to discuss and resolve the delays in the transfer of Canvey Lake's management to the Town Council.

14. BUMBLEBEE PARK

Members were advised that the hard landscaping improvements had been implemented at the Park. Planting was due to take place in April. A plant list had been circulated for councillors' information. Concerns were expressed about protecting the mosaics.

15. FOUR YEAR PLAN

Councillors noted the committee's four year plan.

AGREED to prioritise the Committee's objectives at the next meeting.

*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.*

16. HANGING BASKETS

Councillors considered three quotes for the supply of plants for hanging baskets in the Town Centre. The Clerk raised concerns about the logistics of watering the plants. It was suggested that Mr Cox could be approached to ascertain whether he would be willing to fulfil this role.

RECOMMEND that the contract for planting the Council's hanging baskets on ten lamp columns is awarded to Stuart Kingston at an annual cost of £532.60. The Clerk to approach Mr B. Cox to ascertain whether he would be willing to regularly water the baskets.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE