

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
OF THE CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL**

**HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, WAARDEN ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND ON
MONDAY 2ND JUNE 2008 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: J. Anderson (Chairman)
R. Bishop D. Blackwell B. Dixie P. Greig
R. Howard

Non-committee members: Cllrs D. Anderson P. Davis J. Liddiard

Also present: Borough Councillor Lee Barratt, Cheryl Salmon, CPBC, one member of the public
Mrs J. Abel – Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. N. Harvey who was on holiday.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public asked what the Town Council could do in conjunction with Essex County Council and Castle Point Borough Council about the recent flooding on the Island. Cllr. J. Anderson advised that this matter would be put on the next Council agenda.

Borough Cllr. Lee Barratt sought clarification from the Town Clerk of the cost of running the two allotment sites.

4. DOG FOULING

Mr Ian Burchill, Corporate Director of Environment, Castle Point Borough Council, had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the issue of Dog Fouling with the Committee. Councillors spoke of the regular complaints they received from members of the public about the issue particularly at the sea front. Cllr. Howard declared a personal interest as a dual-hatted councillor. The following options were discussed and assessed:

- Engaging with the community to seek views about appropriate action which would receive support;
- Raising awareness of the health risks through public education chiefly through schools;
- Improved signage, possibly pictorial;
- More dog bins;
- Issuing penalty notices to offenders through the use of a dog warden;
- Banning dogs from the beach at certain times of the year.

RECOMMEND that the Council carries out a community consultation initially presenting the options and possible costs to the community.

AGREED that a draft consultation paper be prepared by the Clerk to be presented to the next Council meeting with costed options for tackling the dog fouling issue together with costs for printing, distributing and setting up a reply paid business service with Royal Mail.

5. TEWKES CREEK WOOD

Members recalled the success of the tree planting scheme on land at Tewkes Creek earlier in the year. The Committee was asked to consider whether it wished to extend the scheme over the remainder of the site. The Clerk reported that a quote had been obtained from King & Co., the contractor previously used for the scheme. Members were advised that assistance with tree planting projects had been advertised by Essex County Council but there were not currently any application forms available and the exact criteria for funding had not been finalised. Cllr. Bishop proposed that CPBC should be approached to establish whether permission could be gained for tree planting on the far side of the sea wall adjacent to the golf course.

The Clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to every school on the Island requesting suggestions from pupils of a name for the area.

AGREED the Clerk to approach CPBC to establish whether land owners permission could be granted for tree planting on the far side of the sea wall.

RECOMMEND that the Council extends the tree planting scheme over the remainder of the site and that the Clerk seeks funding assistance with this.

6. ALLOTMENT TRANSFER

The Clerk reported that documents were awaited from CPBC Legal Services to finalise the transfer which was expected to take place on 1st July 2008. Members were advised that the Borough Council was statutorily required to transfer the allotments to the Town Council. The Council would receive a proportion of the annual rents which had been paid in advance by the tenants. The sites were currently managed by the Canvey Island Horticultural Society and a meeting had taken place between the Town Clerk and Mr Harding to discuss future arrangements. It was reported that some works had been requested by tenants on the pathway at the Smallgains site and the fencing at Waterside Farm. It was suggested that CPBC should be approached to establish if the Waterside Farm site could be extended.

AGREED that CPBC is approached to establish whether the Waterside Farm site could be extended.

7. LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

Mr Ian Burchill was asked to outline the remit of the Panel and the process for appointing members to it. The Committee was advised that its purpose was to encourage more local ownership and greater community integration in highways matters. The Panel would appoint 15 members which it was anticipated would be from the CPBC Neighbourhood Forums, residents, the business community and the Town Council. The first meeting was scheduled to take place on 11th June 2008.

RECOMMEND that Cllr. Rod Bishop is appointed to represent the Town Council's views.

Mr Ian Burchill was thanked by the Chairman of the Committee for attending the meeting. He left the meeting at 8.50pm.

8. ROUNDABOUT NAMING – ROSCOMMON WAY

The Clerk reported that CPBC had asked that the Council suggested a name for one of the new roundabout's on Roscommon Way. Councillors noted the request.

AGREED to advise CPBC that the Council would like the opportunity to suggest a name for the new roundabout and would give this further consideration.

9. LAMP COLUMN REPLACEMENT

The Clerk updated the Committee on the current situation with regard to lamp columns in the Town Centre (Furtherwick Road). ECC had carried out stress tests on the columns and eight columns had failed. As a result, the festive lighting display in 2007 had been compromised as the failing lamp columns were unable to be used to carry festive decorations. The Clerk had written to an ECC Highways Engineer at the beginning of May to establish how and when the columns would be replaced. A reply had not been received. The Clerk reported that a request had been made to CPBC that this matter was considered urgently at the next Highways Panel meeting.

The Committee was asked to consider whether it would support a proposal to upgrade any replacement columns to a more ornate design to enhance the Town Centre.

It was suggested that Councillors visit Rayleigh Town Centre to view the columns they had erected.

AGREED that Councillors visit Rayleigh Town Centre. The Clerk to request that a representative of Rayleigh Town Council meets with Councillors to provide information about the enhancement of the Town Centre.

RECOMMEND that the Council supports in principle the proposal to provide upgraded lamp columns in the Town Centre and that the Clerk establishes the cost of providing these to be reported at the next available opportunity.

i) HANGING BASKET DISPLAYS – FURTHERWICK ROAD

Members considered the proposal that planted hanging baskets were erected on any replacement lamp columns.

RECOMMEND that the Council supports the proposal that planted hanging baskets are displayed on lamp columns in the Town Centre. The Council to give future consideration to the maintenance costs of this scheme and to work closely with the Neighbourhood Forums.

10. FLOWER DISPLAYS – TOWN CENTRE

i) PLANTER DESIGN

Members had been provided with information as to the supplier of planters supplied to Thurrock and Southend Borough Councils. The cost of planters was in the region of £750 each.

AGREED that a site meeting takes place at 3pm on 5th June to assess a suitable planter design for the Town Centre.

*In accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960, the Committee **AGREED** 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*

ii) PLANTER LOCATION

The Clerk advised that verbal permission had been given by ECC to site planters outside the Canvey Library. It was suggested that the Knightswick Centre should be approached to establish whether it may wish to add to the proposed scheme.

AGREED that the Councillors attending the site meeting would establish the planter locations.

iii) APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR TO PLANT AND MAINTAIN PLANTERS

The Committee favoured a quote received from Bradley Cox of £500 per annum to plant, water and maintain six planters. Mr Cox had advised that he would carry this out with the 4th Canvey Sea Scouts as part of their Community badge. The Clerk advised that the Council's budget for this work was £600 per annum and that prior to planting the planters would need to be filled with soil.

AGREED to appoint Mr Bradley Cox to plant, water and maintain the six proposed planters at an annual cost of £500. The remainder of the budget to be used for the purchase of soil to fill the planters.

11. SEA FRONT GARDENS

Members had been provided with a quote from one contractor for replanting and maintaining the memorial garden. The Clerk reported that a meeting had been held with this contractor and a revised, reduced quote had now been received. Two further quotes were required. The Clerk reported that these were being actively sought.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

CHAIRMAN