

**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 TUESDAY 22ND JULY 2008 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: J. Anderson (Chairman)
R. Bishop D. Blackwell B. Dixie P. Greig
R. Howard (from 8.04pm)
Non-committee members: Cllrs D. Anderson

Also present: Two members of the public
Mrs J. Abel – Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public raised the following points:

- That some allotment plots were not well maintained and that residents on the waiting list should be given the opportunity to make use of these
- The Town Council should appoint one of its committees to oversee flooding issues
- The grass cutting close to their home was inadequate
- How would the Council be commenting on the Core Strategy document which was currently out for consultation?

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF 2ND JUNE 2008

The Clerk reported that there had not been the opportunity to prepare a draft consultation paper 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

The Clerk advised that an application had been made to ECC via the RCCE for funding for 1000 additional trees to be planted as phase two of the scheme at Tewkes Creek. Applications could only be made for the supply of trees. The Clerk advised that the Council would need to give consideration to the supply of stakes, ties and rabbit guards together with labour to plant the trees.

The Clerk reported that CPBC had been approached to establish whether land owner's permission could be granted for tree planting on the far side of the sea wall. This matter was being pursued.

Members reviewed the success of the tree planting scheme. Discussion took place as to the need for watering but it was felt that the weather had been sufficiently good for establishment this year to negate the need. It was also felt that the cost would be prohibitive.

The Committee considered suggestions of names for the woodland planting received from Cornelius Vermuyden School. The Clerk suggested that a new sign would need to be erected when the Wood was renamed. The Committee discussed ways of continuing the involvement of the Island's schoolchildren in the project.

RECOMMEND that the Wood is renamed Creeky Woods and that the Clerk writes to all the schools on the Island and Little Tewkes Pre-school inviting them to submit designs for a new sign for the area.

Cllr. R. Howard joined the meeting.

6. ALLOTMENTS

i) TRANSFER

The Clerk reported that it was CPBC's intention to transfer the freehold of the allotment land to the Council. The Clerk advised that there was a need to obtain legal advice about the conveyancing process, stamp duty issues and land registration. The Clerk had arranged a meeting with the Council's solicitors at a cost of £50. Committee members were concerned that the Borough Council should transfer the allotments in an acceptable condition.

RECOMMEND that the Council obtains legal assistance with the allotment transfer if the Clerk deems this necessary following an initial legal consultation. The Clerk to report estimated costs to the next meeting of the Council.

AGREED that the Clerk arranges a site meeting for Committee members and the CPBC Clerk of Works to consider the requirement for any works prior to completion of the transfer.

ii) VANDALISM – WATERSIDE FARM

It was reported that allotment tenants had suffered from vandalism to their sheds with some being set alight.

iii) PERIMETER HEDGING/FENCING

Members considered the need for improvements to the boundary fencing to prohibit access, particularly from the Golf Course. The Clerk advised that funding might be available from ECC for hedge planting via the RCCE. Members agreed that although this would not provide an immediate solution to the problem of limiting access to the site it would be a less costly answer and more environmentally friendly answer.

AGREED the Clerk to submit an application for the supply of hedging plants for the perimeter of the Waterside Farm allotment site.

7. SKATEBOARD PARK

Members noted that the Clerk had met with officers from CPBC and ECC to discuss the Town Council's funding bid to ECC Community Initiative Fund (Youth). The Clerk advised that CPBC had agreed to permit the bungalow building adjacent to Waterside Farm skatepark to be converted for use as a TeenCafe initially for a period of two years. Members were keen that the facility should also be available for use by other age groups. The Clerk advised that the funding application was for capital expenditure only and that consideration would need to be given in the future to the running costs of the project including the bungalow's utility bills and the possible employment of a member of staff to supervise the young people and manage the cafe. Committee members felt that it would be prudent for a site meeting to be arranged with key officers from CPBC and ECC.

AGREED the Clerk to arrange a meeting between Mel Harris (CPBC), Sally Anne Thallon (ECC), Cllrs. Blackwell, Howard and Anderson at the bungalow.

8. WEED GROWTH – HIGHWAYS

Members noted that a meeting with Andy Hilsdon had been arranged for 30th July at 1pm. The Clerk would be attending. The Committee felt strongly that the weed growth around the Island and particularly in the Town Centre was unacceptable.

AGREED that Cllr. Rod Bishop, the Council's Highways Panel representative, attends the meeting.

9. LAMP COLUMN REPLACEMENT – FURTHERWICK ROAD

Members noted that the ten replacement columns had been ordered. ECC Highways had advised that it was endeavouring to ensure the columns were in place to ensure that the Council's festive lights could be erected before Christmas. Members discussed the possibility of extending the column replacement scheme.

RECOMMEND that ECC Highways is advised that the Council would like to support a partnership programme with ECC of phased column replacement in the Town Centre with columns being replaced in Furtherwick Road from the Canvey Library to the junction with Elm Road and in an easterly direction along High Street.

10. HANGING BASKET DISPLAYS

The Committee discussed the possibility of working with the Neighbourhood Forums to purchase and maintain the hanging baskets proposed for erection on the replacement lamp columns. It was noted that the Forums were limited to expenditure of a capital nature only. It was proposed that the Town Council took full responsibility for the initial supply of the baskets, planting and on-going maintenance and that sponsorship from shops in the Town would then be sought following the successful installation of the baskets.

RECOMMEND that the Town Council purchases hanging baskets for erection on the ten replacement lamp columns and that costs are sought for supply, annual planting and maintenance to be reported to the next Council meeting.

11. BUMBLEBEE PARK

The Clerk reported that a site meeting was being organized by CPBC.

12. CANVEY WICK

The Committee **AGREED** to defer this item pending further information.

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM - CIVIC SEATING

Members had been provided with a copy of a request from the Canvey East Neighbourhood Forum that the Council worked with it to provide seating outside the Canvey Library. The Committee discussed the scope for enhancement of the area outside the Library and its wish to work with the Neighbourhood Forums to achieve partnership projects for the benefit of the community. The Clerk suggested that communications between the Town Council and the Forums needed to be improved.

RECOMMEND that:

- the Town Council writes to the Chairmen of Canvey East and West Neighbourhood Forums to advise that it wishes to work more closely with them
- a meeting is arranged between the Neighbourhood Forum chairmen, Cheryl Salmon and John Riley (CPBC), the Clerk, the Chairman of the Town Council and Committee Chairmen to establish a system for effective communication.

14. TRANSFER OF SERVICES FROM CPBC TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

Members **AGREED** that this item should be deferred for consideration by the Council at its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

CHAIRMAN