

**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 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: J. Anderson (Chairman)  
R. Bishop D. Blackwell B. Dixie P. Greig  
N. Harvey R. Howard  
Non-committee members: D. Anderson J. Liddiard

Also present: One member of the public  
One member of the press, Caroline Fuller – Clerk to Ingatestone and  
Fryerning Parish Council  
Julie Abel – Town Clerk

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

Cllr. Christine Andrew's husband, Richard, reported that donations of £585 had been made to Macmillan nurses following the death of his wife.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

**Item 8. Highways – Weed Growth**

Councillors commented that, despite two Island tours with representatives from ECC Highways, the weed growth on Northwick Road had still not been dealt with. It was felt that this could be raised at the next Highway's Panel meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November through the Council's representative, Cllr. Rod Bishop.

**5. SKATEBOARD PARK/BUNGALOW PROJECT**

The Clerk reported that an application had been made by Legacy XS to the ECC CIF (youth). The outcome of this was not yet known but the CIF panel had viewed the application positively. An application had also been made to assist with funding staff for the first two years of the project. It was anticipated that the Town Council's involvement could commence in April 2009. The Clerk advised that it was not possible at this stage to establish costs for cleaning the building as the requirements were not known.

**6. TREE PLANTING - CANVEY LAKE**

The Committee recalled that the applications for trees for Tewkes Creek and Waterside Farm allotments had been successful. The Clerk had been asked to establish the cost of larger trees at Tewkes Creek. Costs were provided to the meeting which totalled £4,495 for planting and supply of additional materials. The Clerk advised that Groundworks had been approached to provide a cost for planting but had declined to quote as specialist equipment was required. Councillors were concerned that insufficient quotes had been obtained. The Clerk explained that the contractor used for the first phase of the scheme had quoted for the second phase through the Rural Community Council and that the quote was very similar to that which the Council had accepted in

February 2008. The Clerk explained that the scale of the scheme and equipment required was of a specialist nature. Councillors were keen to see quotes from local contractors for this work.

**AGREED** the Clerk to obtain additional quotes from local contractors for planting and supply of materials.

The Clerk went on to advise that the Canvey Lake Steering Group had agreed with Winter Gardens school that tree planting would take place inside the school's boundary. The Clerk suggested that it would not be appropriate for the Town Council to make an application for trees to ECC for this area as it was ECC land.

**AGREED** that the Council does not pursue an application for trees on this site.

Councillors discussed tree planting elsewhere on the Canvey Lake site.

**AGREED** the Clerk to

- establish the cost of trees from ECC;
- request that tree-planting is added to the agenda of the next Canvey Lake Steering Group meeting.

## **7. CREEKY WOODS – DESIGN A SIGN**

The Clerk reported that all schools had been invited to take part in the design competition. Northwick Park Primary school had provided a great many submissions. Councillors were disappointed that submissions had only been received from one school.

**AGREED** that the Clerk writes to all the schools on the Island a further time to invite them to make submissions in the spring.

## **8. TEWKES CREEK – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Councillors noted that the Environment Agency was finalising its proposals for improvements to the Creek. Opinion was divided on whether the Creek should be a saltwater or freshwater habitat. It was reported that a site meeting would be held in the near future to enable councillors to meet with Environment Agency staff to discuss proposals.

## **9. ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk reported that the transfer of the freehold interest in the Waterside and Smallgains allotment sites had been completed and the land registered.

A letter had been sent to all tenants advising of the transfer and that the day-to-day management would still be carried out by the Canvey Island Horticultural Society. Tenants had been asked to assist with planting the perimeter hedge at the Waterside Farm site but few responses had been received. The Clerk reported the cost of planting by a contractor to be in the region of £450. Members were unwilling to meet this cost.

Members felt that it would be useful to meet with the Horticultural Society twice per year in Spring and Autumn.

**AGREED** that:

- the Clerk speaks with the Horticultural Society to establish whether the tenants might be willing to plant the hedge;
- a meeting is held with CIHS in the Spring and Autumn.

## **10. ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION FORUM**

i) Members noted the report of the meeting of the Forum group held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

ii) Members considered raising a budget in 2009/10 for the estimated costs associated with holding a wildlife and conservation event in the spring.

**AGREED** that a bid of £5000 is included in 2009/10 draft budget.

## **11. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The Clerk made a short report on the opportunities which existed for the Council to make an impact through policy and action on the issue of Climate Change. It was reported that Canvey was particularly affected by global warming due to the effect it is forecast to have on sea level rise.

Councillors noted that CPBC had formed a Sustainability Group and that the Clerk was attending these meetings. The Clerk distributed a book on Climate Change to each member of the committee.

**AGREED** that a Climate Change working group is formed comprising all members of the committee to consider how the Council might proceed.

## **12. CANVEY LAKE**

### **i) FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Cllr. Anderson updated the Committee on the conclusions drawn by the Study. Members were advised that there were a great many proposals for improvements.

### **ii) PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Clerk reported that she had met with Groundworks and the consultant to consider the consultation process. It was felt that the initial consultation should be broad, targeting all residents. This would be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Groundworks had advised that the cost to carry out the consultation works on the Council's behalf would be in the region of £6,500.

**AGREED** that discussions take place with Groundworks to establish whether the consultation costs may be reduced and that the Council appoints Groundworks to carry out a consultation on improvements at Canvey Lake at a cost below the budgeted figure of £6,500 + VAT.

### **iii) TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION**

Members discussed the process for progressing this recalling that CPBC had committed to finalising the transfer by the end of the year. Discussion took place about the terms of any lease. It was suggested that a meeting was organised with key individuals to include the Chairman, the Chairman of the Committee and Cllr. Howard, Borough Council Environment portfolio holder to negotiate the lease terms.

Discussion took place about legal representation during the transfer process. The Clerk was asked to establish costs from local legal firms.

**AGREED** that the Clerk organises a meeting between key representatives of the Town Council and Borough Council to progress the leasehold transfer.

## **13. TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS**

### **i) LAMP COLUMN REPLACEMENT**

The Clerk advised that ECC had not been able to provide the ten replacement lamp columns for Furtherwick Road prior to the installation of the festive lighting. Therefore, the lamp column replacement had been deferred until January 2009. This had resulted in a reduced number of festive lights being hung from the existing columns despite efforts by ECC to reduce loading on the columns by removing redundant signage. Councillors were disappointed and frustrated that,

despite placing an order for new columns in July, County Highways had been unable to meet the Council's requested installation date.

**AGREED** the Clerk to write to ECC to express bitter disappointment that it had not been possible to install these columns in time to ensure a better festive lighting display.

#### **ii) HANGING BASKET DISPLAYS**

Costs of £500 per annum were reported for the supply and maintenance of plants to be mounted in baskets on the ten replacement columns.

**AGREED** that further quotes are obtained.

#### **iii) TOWN CENTRE PLANTERS – SCHEME EXTENSION**

Councillors considered raising a budget in 2009/10 to extend the planter scheme in the Town centre. Cllr. Blackwell commented that the planters appeared not to have been watered on a regular basis reminding councillors that this would be necessary or plants would die.

**AGREED** that a bid of £12,000 is included in the 2009/10 budget for the extension of the town centre planting scheme.

#### **14. BUMBLEBEE PARK**

The Clerk reported that an architect had been appointed by CPBC to produce drawings for the scheme but these had not yet been completed. Members were frustrated that the scheme had been further delayed. Concerns were expressed about the possible loss of funding as a result of delays.

**AGREED** the Clerk to write to CPBC to advise of CITC's disappointment that the project was experiencing further delays and to establish the cause of the delays.

#### **15. STREET LIGHTING – PART NIGHT OPERATION**

The Clerk advised councillors that the committee had been asked to consider this item by the Full Council and had been delegated the authority to write to ECC to express the Council's views.

Information was provided by the Clerk on ECC exception criteria and the reported outcomes of trials in other Essex Districts. Councillors were strongly opposed to any suggestion that the streets of Canvey might not be lit for part of the night in the future.

**AGREED** that the Clerk writes to ECC to advise that CITC would strongly oppose the introduction of part night operation of street lighting on the Island if it were proposed in the future.

#### **16. PROBATION SERVICE WORKS IN CANVEY**

Councillors were asked to suggest environmental projects on the Island which would benefit the whole community. It was suggested that the probationers could be asked to remove weeds on the Charfleets Industrial Estate.

**AGREED** that;

- Councillors advise the Clerk of any further appropriate schemes;
- The probation service is asked to assess the proposal for works at the Charfleets Industrial Estate.

#### **17. HIGHWAYS PANEL**

Members noted the difficulties caused by parking on the verge at the Rugby Club on Dovervelt Road.

**AGREED** that Cllr R. Bishop raises this issue with the Highways Panel.

### **18. FOUR YEAR PLAN**

The Chairman spoke of the need for a four year plan to be drawn up detailing projects that had been previously agreed to illustrate to Canvey residents how the precept will be spent.

Councillors were enthusiastic about adopting this approach to planning the committee's business. The Clerk advised that she would draft a plan based on committee decisions to date to be put to the next meeting.

*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*

### **19. SEAFRONT GARDENS**

Members considered the amended quotation from Pinnacle.

**AGREED** that the Clerk and Chairman meet with a Pinnacle representative prior to the next Council meeting to discuss the quotation received.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

CHAIRMAN