

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE
CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE PADDOCKS, LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND ON
MONDAY 5TH JANUARY 2009 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

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

Also present: Borough Councillors Neville Watson, Martin Tucker and Peter May, six members of the public, one member of the press
Mrs J. Abel – Town Clerk

99. CASTLEPOINT REGENERATION

The Chairman welcomed Mr Steve Rogers, Head of Regeneration and Homes at CPBC who gave a fifteen minute presentation on the vision for the Island in the future and how this would be achieved.

100. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. R. Bishop who was unwell.

101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

102. PUBLIC FORUM

A representative from Canvey Island Royal British Legion raised strong concerns about the recent renovation of the War Memorial at The Paddocks. Councillors were also advised that there was strong resistance to the relocation of the Memorial.

RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Chief Executive Officer at CPBC to request that a meeting is arranged between the Council, the RBL and the Town Council.

103. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3rd November 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

104. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2008

Item 91. Christmas Festivities

The Clerk was asked to provide an update on the installation of the ten replacement lamp columns in the town centre. Councillors noted that it was not possible to replace the columns until festive lighting had been removed. The Clerk had been in contact with ECC Highways in late December and anticipated that the installation would take place at the end of January 2009.

Item 93. Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

The Clerk was asked to provide an update on the arrangements for the meeting with Ian Burchill, CPBC and Chief Inspector Paul Eveleigh. Members were advised that the meeting had been rearranged and was now scheduled to take place at 7pm pm on 8th January at CPBC's offices.

Item 94. Purchase of Meeting Room Furniture

The Clerk reported that furniture was expected to arrive on 7th January 2009.

105. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

i) ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 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 adopted by the Council.

ii) COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2008 were presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Joan Liddiard.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Community Relations Committee meeting attached as Appendix B and the recommendations therein are adopted by the Council.

iii) POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2008 were presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Phil Davies.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting attached as Appendix C are adopted by the Council.

The Committee's recommendation under **item 6. Recruitment – Events and Publicity Officer** was not accepted by the Council.

Cllr. B. Dixie proposed an amendment to the recommendation

'that the Council appoints an Events and Publicity officer for 25 hours per week'.

The amendment was put to the vote with six councillors voting in favour and three against.

The Clerk requested clarification from the Council of the job description for the post as the reduction from 37 to 25 hours per week would result in some aspects of the draft job description not being fulfilled. The Clerk advised that the post would not be advertised until this was resolved.

RESOLVED that a post is created for an Events and Publicity Officer for 25 hours per week with 17 hours of the post holders time allocated for event organization. Councillors to give consideration at a later date to the allocation of duties for the post holders remaining 8 hours to enable the vacancy to be advertised.

The Committee's recommendation under **item 7. Budget 2009-2010** was deferred to Item 8 on the Council agenda.

106. PRECEPT 2009/2010

The Council noted the recommendation of the Policy and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED that the Council raises a precept of £266,738 in the 2009-2010 financial year which represents a 0% increase to the local taxpayer on the current year.

107. CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the Clerk's report which detailed meetings which the Clerk had attended which had not been reported elsewhere within the normal process of Council business.

Councillors were also advised of an invitation to attend a probation service open day on 21st February 2009.

108. EMERGENCY CHRISTMAS TREE REPAIRS

Costs for emergency repairs necessary as a result of vandalism to the Christmas tree lights outside Canvey Library were reported as being £448 plus VAT.

109. CREEKY WOODS – TREE PLANTING

The Clerk reported efforts to obtain additional quotes for planting trees in the second phase of the scheme. Three local contractors from the Yellow Pages had been approached as the Council had requested, together with four contractors approved by ECC. Councillors noted that none of the companies approached wished to quote for the works as they were either not providing the trees or did not have the equipment required for large scale planting.

RESOLVED that the Council appoints King & Co to plant the second phase of the scheme and provide stakes, ties and guards at a total net cost of £4,495.

110. FORMATION OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Members recalled the recent meeting with Joy Sheppard from the EALC who had advised on the purpose and structure of a personnel committee.

The Council felt that the chairmen of the Council's four committees should each be given the opportunity to join the personnel committee together with the Chairman of the Council.

RESOLVED that the following members are appointed to the Personnel Committee:

Cllr. J. Anderson
Cllr. B. Dixie
Cllr. J. Liddiard
Cllr. D. Blackwell (Chairman)

111. PUBLICATION SCHEME

The Clerk advised the Council that as a local authority it was required to adopt and maintain a publication scheme under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). The Council did not currently have a scheme in place and was therefore in breach of the Act.

Members noted that the Clerk intended to present a draft scheme to the next Policy and Finance Committee meeting.

112. HIGHWAYS LOCALITY PANEL

Members noted an informative report from the Council's representative on the Panel, Cllr. Bishop.

113. CASUAL VACANCY

The Clerk reported that an election would be held on 22nd January 2009 to fill the Council's current casual vacancy. There were four nominations for the vacancy.

It was reported that polling cards had been sent to all of the electorate in East Ward and that the Town Council would need to meet the cost which was estimated to be in the region of £1500.

114. TRAINING

i) Advanced Councillor Training

Councillors noted the availability of training at EALC on 29th January 2009.

ii) Health and Safety

Councillors noted the availability of training at EALC on 26th February 2009. The Clerk advised that a member of Council staff would be attending.

RESOLVED that one delegate attends this training at a cost of £52 plus travel expenses.

115. EALC PEER REVIEW

The Clerk advised the Council that it had not yet resolved the issue of whether to take up the offer of assistance with the establishment of Council procedures from the EALC.

RESOLVED that this matter is deferred until the next meeting to enable members to give the issue further consideration.

116. RESCHEDULING OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2009

Members noted that the scheduled Annual Town Council meeting coincided with the meeting scheduled for the Borough Council.

RESOLVED to hold the Annual Town Council meeting on 18th May 2009.

117. EALC EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATIVE

The Clerk reported correspondence from the EALC requesting that the Council appointed either a councillor or officer representative to attend the EALC Executive meetings.

RESOLVED that the Council advises the EALC that it does not wish to appoint a representative.

118. FINANCE

Members noted the financial reports circulated with the agenda provided for expenditure in September, October and November 2008.

RESOLVED that the Council agrees net expenditure of:

£19,128.39 in September 2008;

£12,098.94 in October 2008;

£11,712.89 in November 2008.

119. REPORTS FROM CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Anderson reported that a meeting was to take place on 9th January with officers from CPBC to progress the transfer of Canvey Lake. A meeting was also taking place on 13th January at the Bungalow to progress the partnership project between ECC, CPBC, CITC and Legacy.

120. REPORTS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Howard reported on a current campaign by ECC to raise individual's awareness of unclaimed benefits.

He also reported on legislation which would result in the adoption of unadopted sewers by Anglian Water from 2011.

*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*

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because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

121. SEAFRONT GARDENS

Members considered quotations for work provided by three contractors for the initial renovation and ongoing maintenance of the Seafront Gardens.

RESOLVED to appoint Pinnacle to carry out renovation works and ongoing maintenance of the seafront gardens subject to the satisfactory negotiation of transfer of responsibilities from CPBC to CITC.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

CHAIRMAN