

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE CANVEY ISLAND TOWN
COUNCIL HELD AT THE PADDOCKS, LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND ON
MONDAY 24TH AUGUST 2009 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: J. Liddiard (Chairman)
D. Anderson P. Davies R. Howard N. Pontius
J. Anderson B. Dixie N. Harvey

Non-committee members: R. Bishop, P. Greig

Also present: One member of the public
One member of the press
Mrs L Lodge – Acting Clerk
Mr J Rickards – Events and Publicity Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members of the committee were present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present however the meeting agreed to Cllr Howard providing an update on the recent press article concerning Canvey Island and Lord Hanningfield, Leader of ECC. Lord Hanningfield had advised Cllr Howard that he felt that he had been misrepresented by the press and had always been a supporter of Canvey Island. It was understood that Lord Hanningfield intended to rectify the matter with the newspaper.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 29TH JUNE 2009

Item 6 – Bus shelters - **Clerk** to ask the bus companies, CPBC and ECC to provide details of all bus stops in order that the committee members could undertake a thorough investigation into the need for bus shelters.

With the agreement of the meeting, item 10 was discussed next.

10. TO CONSIDER THE RESTORATION OF THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE, DEDICATED TO THE FLOOD VICTIMS OF 1953

The committee examined 3 quotations received for refurbishment works to the plaque. Noted that the quotations varied in respect of works to be carried out and that each company had based their quotation on a photograph of the plaque. Costs varied from £470 - £1160.

Proposed that members would undertake a site visit and report observations to the Clerk/Committee chairman. Suggested that a service could be held to mark the reinstatement of the plaque.

AGREED that the Clerk arrange for the refurbishment work to be undertaken in consultation with the Committee Chairman at a cost not exceeding £1160.

5. HIGHWAYS MATTERS - TO CONSIDER THE STREET LIGHT PILOT SCHEME

Noted that the minutes of the Environment & Open Spaces Committee referred to a date of 8 September for the ECC Scrutiny committee rather than 18 September.

AGREED that the Committee confirm its opposition to the pilot scheme being extended across the county.

6. SANTA WALK 6TH DECEMBER 2009 – TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM PETER MAY FOR THE FUNDING OF REFRESHMENTS NOT EXCEEDING £300 AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE ORGANISATION FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

It was noted that the request for assistance had not been made via the Councils grant application route. Noted that the event itself had proved to be popular in the past and was an opportunity for young people to be involved in a community event.

AGREED that Cllr May be invited to the next Committee meeting to provide further information so that the Committee could consider the request for assistance within the Christmas festivities budget rather than the grant budget.

7. CHRISTMAS 2009 – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2009 EVENT AND TO CONSIDER EXPENDITURE FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

The Events & Publicity Officer had provided a report on the preparations to date.

Further information was provided verbally at the meeting. Noted that each of the lighting display options, together with the Christmas trees and associated festivities would be within the agreed budget. Further noted that the lighting display options also allowed for the purchase of lights over a 3 year period. Discussion with the Borough Council was ongoing.

AGREED that the final details, preparations and decisions on appropriate lighting and other festivities and activities, within the budget of £10,000 be delegated to the Events & Publicity Officer.

8. TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER – TO CONSIDER THE PRODUCTION OF A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The Events & Publicity Officer had provided a draft newsletter to all councillors, prior to the meeting. The Committee noted and considered the content with details of events held, information on future events, reports from councillors and space for community events. Costs of printing and distribution were noted based upon 17,000 copies and noting that delivery could be solo i.e. without other leaflets etc. or as part of a larger distribution.

AGREED that a quarterly newsletter would be produced, printed and distributed to every household, with distribution as a solo item. The cost for each newsletter production would be approximately £1900. Advertising would be sought to offset the costs, however this would be limited to no more than approximately 25% of the content. Production dates would be timed to avoid distribution at a similar time to the Borough News.

9. FOUR YEAR PLAN – TO CONSIDER PROJECTS FOR 2010/11

Members referred to the Four year plan circulated with the agenda. Discussion took place on items for 2009-10 as follows:

- Citizenship training for year 7 school children – The Events & Publicity Officer is working with the schools and will move this forward when the schools re-open in September
- Press ECC for improvements to bus services – Cllr Howard has persuaded ECC to provide an improved service to Morrisons, which started on 6 August although noted that there is only 1 return service per day at the moment
- Further consideration to be given to the possibility of including a Citizens Award and Carnival in 2010

- A focus group would be set up consisting of Cllrs Blackwell, Dixie, Bishop, Greig D Anderson and J Anderson for a Fun Day for 2010
- Noted that the Armed Forces Day falls on a Sunday in 2010, but that the Councils' celebrations will take place on the preceding Saturday

11. PUBLIC FORUM - TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF CANVEY ISLAND ON ANY ISSUES FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TEN MINUTES IF TIME PERMITS.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE