

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND COMMUNITY AWARDS
MONDAY 14TH MARCH 2022 AT 6.45PM**

PRESENT:

Cllr B. Palmer (Town Mayor), Cllr D. Anderson (Deputy Town Mayor), Cllr A. Acott, Cllr P. May, Cllr E. Harvey, Cllr J. Anderson, Cllr S. Sach, Cllr P. Greig, and Cllr C. Sach

APOLOGIES: Cllr D. Blackwell and Cllr N. Harvey.

60 members of the public

Mrs E. De Can – Town Clerk

Mrs J. Smith-Port - Deputy Clerk

Mrs L. Gould – Community & Events Officer

Mrs A. Wakenell – Community Warden

1. ‘Welcome from Canvey Island Town Council Town Mayor’ – COUNCILLOR BARRY PALMER

Cllr Palmer welcomed all residents to Canvey Island Town Council’s Annual Town Meeting and Community Awards evening and explained the procedure for the evening. He confirmed that there will be an opportunity to enjoy refreshments and to speak to councillors or officers about any of the council’s activities during the last year and asked residents to be seated by 7.15pm at the latest to proceed with the presentation of the Community Awards.

2. To confirm and sign as a true record the minutes of the Town Meeting held on the 20th September 2021

The minutes of the Town Meeting held on the 20th September 2021 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

3. COMMUNITY AWARDS

Cllr Palmer advised that the Town Council Community Awards is an initiative to recognise those individuals and organisations who selflessly give up their time in the community to help others without expecting any recognition, making a significant contribution to the quality of life for residents of Canvey Island. There were nominations received for three award categories this year which are:

- Citizen of the Year (over 18 years)
- Community Group of the Year.
- Best Community Contribution from a Local Business

Citizen of the Year

Cllr Palmer presented the award to Victoria Vesey in recognition of her work with CAVS. She volunteers on two teams, helping vulnerable and socially isolated residents in the community. Vikki is also a Covid Marshall. In the run up to Christmas Vikki decided to put together a ‘Reverse Advent Calendar Hamper’, and organised, co-ordinated, and delivered over 48 hampers to some of the most vulnerable people so they had some lovely things to eat for Christmas. When requested to support the Paddocks Vaccination Centre on Canvey for the booster campaign she gladly went and covered shifts there too, including some very long days in the run up to Christmas.

Special Recognition Award

Cllr Palmer presented a special recognition award under the Citizen of the Year category to Hayley Black in recognition of her charity work in the community. Hayley has raised over £12,000 in the past year for local charities which she has done by completing sponsored walks, marathons, and decorating her house for residents at Christmas. After overcoming personal challenges, herself, Hayley has used this as motivation to fundraise for her local community.

Community Group of the Year

Cllr Palmer presented the award to Bobby's Big Heart in recognition for their hard work since setting up in 2017, asking for new toys for struggling families. Since its inception the group have received many donations not just gifts but food too and it has grown to 3,000 members who wanted to carry it on permanently. The group get regular referrals from social workers, mental health teams, volunteers from refuges and local schools where they pass on the information to families and the families contact the group for help. Bobby's Big Heart not only receive donations but also help deliver food parcels.

Special Recognition Award

Cllr Palmer presented a special recognition award under the Community Group of the Year category to the 22 volunteers at the St Nicholas Church Food Bank in recognition of them helping those needing food in the community, helping with the collection, sorting and distribution of donations and offering an invaluable service for those who need it most.

Best Community Contribution from a Local Business

Cllr Palmer presented the award to Monico Leisure in recognition for its work within the community over many years, running surprise events for people who volunteer in the community, giving free use of the leisure park and cheeky monkeys soft play to vulnerable families and groups, giving free use of their function room to volunteer groups and providing free meals at Jimmy Macs to vulnerable families.

Special Recognition Award

Cllr Palmer presented a special recognition award under the Best Community Contribution from a Local Business category to The Canvey Supply Company Ltd in recognition of its contributions to local projects and voluntary groups on Canvey Island.

To close the awards Cllr Palmer congratulated all the award winners, thanked them for their contribution to the community of Canvey Island and thanked all the residents for attending and supporting the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Town Mayor

14th March 2023