

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND COMMUNITY AWARDS
MONDAY 25TH MARCH 2024 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES: Cllr B. Botham and Cllr D. Blackwell

48 members of the public

Mrs E. De Can – Town Clerk

Mrs K. Bali – Community & Events Officer

Mrs A. Wakenell – Community Warden

Refreshments were provided from 7.00pm and the meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

1. 'Welcome from Canvey Island Town Council Town Mayor' – COUNCILLOR ELAINE HARVEY

Cllr E. Harvey welcomed all residents to Canvey Island Town Council's Annual Town Meeting and Community Awards evening and explained the procedure for the evening. She 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 after the Community Awards were presented.

2. To confirm and sign as a true record the minutes of the Town Meeting held on the 14th March 2023

The minutes of the Town Meeting held on the 14th March 2023 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

3. COMMUNITY AWARDS

Cllr E. Harvey 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 four 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
- Youth Community Group of the Year.

Citizen of the Year

Cllr E. Harvey presented the award to Tony Roche in recognition of leading a dedicated team of volunteers at the St Vincent De Paul foodbank. This group help the local community and Tony works tirelessly, 6 Days a week to collect food from 8 different supermarkets and inspires an entire team, to continue to successfully provide well needed food to foodbanks, schools, care homes and residents on the Island.

Community Group of the Year

Cllr E. Harvey presented the award to the Home Library Service in recognition for this group of volunteers who regularly order and deliver books to housebound residents, they assist with many various community events and every volunteer is extremely friendly and are thought of as friends by those they visit. This is a vital service that is so much more than literacy but also helps with loneliness and isolation.

Best Community Contribution from a Local Business

Cllr E. Harvey advised that the winner of this award is, the Primary Care Network in recognition for the care they provide and treatment to local groups, they have great patience with the older community, they give their time as required by all their patients and the local PCN have successfully built a wonderful relationship with the local community.

Youth Community Group of the Year

Cllr E. Harvey presented the award to the Canvey Island Swimming Club in recognition for their work with 230 students from the ages of 3, their staff's commitment to further their qualifications and take on these roles exemplified the community spirit and teamwork and the club has a very good representation at the Essex County Championships, with one exceptional swimmer clinching victory, 4 years in a row

Special Recognition Awards

Cllr E. Harvey presented special recognition awards following nominations under the Citizens of the Year category to:

Cathy Taylor for volunteering her time weekly to residents on a one-to-one basis in IT skills where she happily adapts her time to suit residents needs. She has volunteered since this scheme was started and her dedication to her students is inspirational as she is very patient and understanding.

Cliff and Jackie Larman for working extremely hard at the St Vincent De Paul Foodbank where they volunteer 6 days a week to help residents in need of food and assistance and their dedication to working long hours with no expectation for anything in return is inspiring.

4. An opportunity to engage with your Local Councillors regarding Town Council activities.

Members of the public were given the opportunity to engage and discuss issues with Town Councillors whilst enjoying refreshments provided.

To close the evening and awards Cllr E. Harvey 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 8.30pm

Town Mayor