

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD IN HALL 2 AT THE PADDOCKS, LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND
MONDAY 5th MARCH 2018 AT 7.00 PM.**

PRESENT:-

Cllr J. Anderson (Town Mayor), Cllr B. Campagna (Deputy Town Mayor), Cllr P. May, Cllr P. Greig, Cllr J. Blissett, Cllr D. Anderson, Cllr A. Acott & Cllr D. Blackwell

ALSO PRESENT:-

Cllr R Howard (Castle Point Borough Council)

APOLOGIES:-

Cllr M. Tucker, Cllr N. Harvey

58 members of the public

Mrs E. De Can – Town Clerk

Mr N. Milner – Deputy Clerk

Laura Shirley – Community & Events Officer

Adele Ruskin – Community Warden

The evening started at 6.30pm offering light refreshments and offering the public the opportunity to visit the community group stalls that were on display.

The community stalls present were the Canvey Youth Project and CAVS.

1. 'A review of the Town Council's year' – COUNCILLOR JOHN ANDERSON, TOWN MAYOR, CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Anderson welcomed all residents, guests and community groups who had come along to the meeting. Cllr Anderson provided an overview of the Council's main achievements in 2017/18.

Cllr Anderson advised that the Town Council had not raised the precept for the financial year 2018/19 in line with previous years and had been involved in a number of initiatives such as the installation of a new Play Area at Canvey Lake, new tree's at Tewkes Creek, British Beach Clean, Active Citizens, Fire Break, Speed Watch and the Tree Charter which was created so that local communities and trees can benefit each other and 183 signatures have been obtained at the time of this meeting. Cllr Anderson highlighted that the Community Warden had completed training to become a Hate Crime Ambassador.

Cllr Anderson confirmed that the Town Council had provided a number of events for the benefit of residents to include the flag raising ceremony to Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth, Wildlife Day in partnership with the RSPB, a Beach Fun Day which had proved extremely popular, Armed Forces Day, the Garden Trail which had raised in excess of £1,000 for the Canvey Island First Responders and the Christmas Light Switch On.

Cllr Anderson advised that the Town Council is proactive in managing its open spaces throughout the course of the year and is always looking for enhancements such as additional bins, the play area, jetty repairs at Canvey Lake and tree installations at Tewkes Creek picnic area to name just a few.

2. To confirm and sign as a true record the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 13th March 2017

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 13th March 2017 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

3. QUESTION AND ANSWER FORUM – Questions will be invited from members of the public relating to the parish of Canvey Island

Members of the public were invited to address questions to the Town Mayor in relation to the Town Council business.

Q: Why was there no mention of Canvey Bay Watch in the presentation by the Town Mayor?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that Canvey Bay Watch was not part of the Town Council and that the presentation reflected the work undertaken by the Town Council.

A discussion followed relating to the work undertaken by various volunteer groups. Cllr Campagna advised that Canvey Bay Watch kept beaches clean throughout the year. A representative from the Friends of Concord Beach commended the work of Pinnacle in emptying the bins on behalf of Castle Point Borough Council.

Q: What were the Town Council going to do about the future running/maintenance of the Paddocks?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that Castle Point Borough Council were issuing a consultation letter to all groups that were using the Paddocks and the Town Council will form part of the consultation. Cllr Anderson stated that whilst the Paddocks required refurbishment the residents of Canvey Island wanted a building that met the needs of the community.

Q: Are Canvey Island Town Council & Councillors involved in the consultation?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that Castle Point Borough Council had promised that they would advise councillors of the outcome of the consultation and the Town Council is a statutory consultee. Cllr Anderson advised that residents should be involved in future plans for the Paddocks.

A discussion followed regarding the Paddocks. Cllr Anderson advised that he had no specific knowledge of what is going to happen to the Paddocks in the future. Cllr Blackwell advised that residents need to be realistic about what is going on. Cllr Blackwell advised that £1m had been given to Castle Point Borough Council by the government to create a Healthy Living Centre but the monies had been returned due to a change in overall power at Castle Point Borough Council. Cllr Blackwell advised that he felt Castle Point have gone about the issue in the wrong way and that residents are against the redevelopment and that the Paddocks should stay the same and that Castle Point Borough Council should consider all the options that were available to include the use of the upstairs offices by local business with the downstairs being used for the benefit of the local community. A resident advised that a survey had been issued by Castle Point Borough Council to existing users of the Paddocks and that care would need to be exercised in interpreting the answers provided.

Cllr May advised that the Paddocks means a lot to the residents of Canvey and that the building does have potential. Cllr May advised that as a result of the building being used by various community groups, these groups were able to provide support to residents when required.

Q: Would the Town Council be able to speak to Castle Point Borough Council on behalf of residents regarding the future of the Paddocks and would residents be able to form a Working Party to carry out refurbishment?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that the Paddocks had been run down over the last 6 years and that £1.5m had been earmarked for refurbishment but spread over a period of 20 years. Cllr Anderson requested that the name of the resident who wished to establish a Working Party should be provided to the Town Council. Cllr Campagna advised that some Town Councillors have dual roles on both the Town Council and Castle Point Borough Council and are limited in the comments that they can make as they could lose their vote.

Q: Had the Paddocks been left to the residents of Canvey Island on a similar basis as Canvey Island Football Club?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that he was not aware that this was the case.

Q: Will the positive approach to commenting on planning decisions adopted by the Town Council continue in the future?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that the current approach is nothing new and that the Town Council will provide positive comments on what is right for the Island. Cllr Anderson also advised that the Town Council has two councillors who are members of the Castle Point Planning Committee.

Q: What does Town Council think of the refurbishment plans for the seafront?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that plans for refurbishment of the seafront had been drawn up by Consultants and had been on display in various locations around the island. Cllr Anderson advised that the Town Council were part of the seafront regeneration group to include councillors and the Town Clerk.

A discussion took place where residents expressed concern over the fact that there were no toilets and that travellers may be able to occupy the land that formed part of the regeneration. Concern was also expressed that the Memorial and Sensory Gardens would be knocked down. Cllr Anderson advised that the Town Council would make every effort to ensure that the Memorial and Sensory Garden remained in place. Cllr Howard advised that Canvey Island had been chosen as one of 10 areas that was able to put forward ideas for regeneration and which would entitle Canvey to receive money from the government. Cllr Howard advised that those involved in the regeneration project would take in to account the views of residents although Castle Point would have the final say on what was implemented and that representations to Castle Point should be made through Ward Councillors. Cllr Howard had been invited to a meeting involving Maldon District Council and Civil Servants as Maldon & Tendring have been successful in obtaining monies through the Coastal Communities Fund. Cllr Howard advised that Canvey was a good candidate to receive up to £1m for seafront regeneration and that the Thorney Bay Area would be the first area to form part of the regeneration. Cllr Anderson advised that residents were right to keep on questioning what is going on and that residents need to get involved in order to achieve positive results from the regeneration.

Q: What are the Town Council going to do about dog fouling?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that the Town Council has a Community Warden who patrols various areas on the island on a regular basis but that dog owners are responsible for preventing dog fouling and not the Town Council. Cllr Anderson acknowledged that there is a high level of dog fouling in and around Tewkes Creek. Cllr Anderson advised that if a dog bin is installed in one area then it must be taken from another area. Cllr Howard advised that Canvey Island Rugby Club wanted to get involved in reducing dog fouling and raised a concern that there were no bins at West Canvey Marshes. Cllr Blackwell advised that dog fouling is a big issue on the island and that dog owners need to be responsible. Cllr Blackwell acknowledged the work of volunteer groups in reducing the level of dog fouling on the seafront. Cllr Blackwell indicated that Castle Point Borough Council should have an educational policy in place in order to reduce dog fouling and that action needs to be taken immediately. Cllr Anderson advised that both Community Warden and Castle Point were working together on this issue.

Q: Could the Town Council install dog bins around the island?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that if the Town Council were to install additional bins then it may be necessary for the Town Council to increase the precept to cover the additional cost of emptying the bins.

Q: Was the Town Council concerned over the vandalism that had taken place at the Playground at Canvey Lake?

A: Cllr Anderson advised that although there was concern there is always an increase in vandalism with a new installation, however, as experience has shown with the Town Council planters over time the level of vandalism decreases and eventually stops.

4. COMMUNITY AWARDS

Cllr Anderson 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 are two award categories this year which are:

- Citizen of the Year (over 18 years)
- Community/Charity Group of the Year.

Cllr Anderson presented the award for Citizens of the Year to Rod and Aileen Bishop in recognition of their tireless volunteer work within the community.

Cllr Anderson presented the award for Community Group of the Year to CISCA House in recognition for their service and support for over 50's on Canvey Island.

Cllr Anderson congratulated Rod and Aileen Bishop and CISCA House for their contribution to the community of Canvey Island and pictures were taken of the winners.

To close the meeting Cllr Anderson thanked all the organisations who attended with an information stand and all residents for attending and supporting the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Town Mayor

11th March 2019