

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD IN HALL 2 AT THE PADDOCKS, LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND
MONDAY 13th MARCH 2017 AT 7.00 PM.**

PRESENT:-

Cllr M. Tucker (Town Mayor), Cllr J. Anderson (Deputy Town Mayor), Cllr P. May, Cllr P. Greig, Cllr T. Belford, Cllr J. Blissett, Cllr D. Anderson, Cllr N. Harvey, Cllr A. Acott & Cllr B. Campagna

ALSO PRESENT:-

Cllr P. Davey, Chairman, Local Council Award Scheme

APOLOGIES:-

Cllr D. Blackwell

76 members of the public

Mrs E. De Can – Responsible Financial Officer

Laura Windley – 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 Castle Point Citizens Advice Bureau, CAVS Keep it Clear Campaign, Essex Police – Active Citizens, Canvey Youth Project and Canvey Baywatch.

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

Cllr Tucker welcomed all residents, guests and all the community groups who came along and supplied information stalls for the evening.

Cllr Tucker provided an overview of the Councils main achievements for 2016/17.

The Town Council has worked on many community initiatives during the year with the Community Warden such as Microchipping with Dogs Trust following government changes in law which was very well attended, the community engagement event at Canvey Lake in partnership with Thames21 and working with CISCA House and Age Concern to promote community safety. Cllr Tucker confirmed that he hopes to continue to form more partnerships in order to provide more educational events.

Cllr Tucker confirmed that it had been another successful year for the Town Councils events program with the flag raising ceremony to Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth, celebrating the Queens 90th Birthday by conducting a Beacon Lighting Ceremony in partnership with Castle Point Borough Council, the Wildlife Day in partnership with the RSPB, its first Beach Fun Day, the Armed Forces Day and credit went to Peter Allyson for including all religious denominations in the service, the Charity Garden Trail which raised £520.98 for Canvey Island's MS Club, and the Christmas Event and Light Switch on.

Cllr Tucker confirmed that the Town Council has not raised its precept again this year and that there has been no increase in 10 years.

Residents noted from the presentation slides that the Town Council's grant funding scheme has been able to offer a total of £5,000.00 to local organisations including Canvey Island Youth Project, Canvey

Island Bay Museum and the Essex Fire and Rescue Service and that the Town Council had received funding from the Community Initiative Fund towards the allotments replacement fencing.

Cllr Tucker confirmed that the Town Council continues to maintain and enhance its open spaces, such as Canvey Lake which has suffered over the last year with water quality and diseased fish. He gave credit to the Town Council staff for removing deceased fish in their own cars and their dedication for doing this whilst no other service was available, the Tidal Pool which continues to thrive as well as this year completing the refurbishment of the Labworth Memorial Gardens. Cllr Tucker confirmed that unfortunately the Bumblebee Park has suffered vandalism, however, CCTV has now been installed.

At this point Cllr Tucker asked to bring forward item 5 on the agenda for Cllr Peter Davey, Chairman of the Local Council Award Scheme to present the Town Council with the Local Council Quality Award. Cllr Davey confirmed that there are over 10,000 Town & Parish Councils and from looking at Canvey Island Town Councils website it is clear and to its credit the Council has achieved a lot since 2007 and its achievements cover every spectrum for local Council life. Cllr Davey advised that from listening to the presentation this evening the Council has achieved a lot in the last year. Cllr Davey confirmed that Canvey Island Town Council was one of the 1st Councils to achieve the Foundation Level Accreditation Award and has now demonstrated that it meets all requirements of the Foundation Award and the Quality Award and has additional documentation and information in place for good governance, effective community engagement and council improvement which also includes the eligibility criteria for the General Power of Competence. Cllr Davey explained the requirements for the Gold Quality Award and confirmed that the Town Council is already demonstrating a level of quality to achieve this next level when it is ready to submit an application for Gold Status.

Cllr Davey presented the certificate for the Quality Award to Cllr Tucker, Town Mayor and Elaine De Can, Town Clerk.

2. To confirm and sign as a true record the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 14th March 2016

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 14th March 2016 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

3. 'Ways to Wellness and Befriending Scheme' – Presentation from Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services

Michaela White provided a presentation on the Ways to Wellness and Befriending Scheme which covers the Castle Point and Rochford districts.

Ways to Wellness – the scheme started running a year ago and is funded through GP's and supported by Social Services. To date the service has supported 350 people and has 2 part time members of staff. There is a dedicated telephone number which can be found on the leaflets provided at the stand this evening. The service is provided to anyone over the age of 18 and there is an outreach service set up within the community. CAVS are working in partnership with Essex Police as when dealing with victims of crime may identify other issues which could benefit from this scheme.

Befriending Scheme – the scheme has been operating for at least 5 years and it started in Castle Point as a pilot scheme but it was found that there was a need for this service and is part funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group. The scheme now runs in Rochford and has 2 members of staff, 1 full time due to the demand and 1 part time. The scheme is for anyone over the age of 18 and who feels isolated. The team receive referrals from GP's for people who are struggling and it tries to identify people before they get to this stage. Since the scheme started there have been 500 matches with befrienders who volunteer their time to help these residents. The scheme predominately helps older people but there are some young mums and younger people who are supported by the scheme for various reasons. Contact details were provided and leaflets available at the stand this evening.

4. 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 or Michaela White following her presentation.

Q: Can you provide an update on the rumours surrounding the Paddocks and whether the Town Council can take it over?

A: Cllr Tucker advised that the Town Council were not informed of the plans for the Paddocks, however, Borough Councillors can seek an update from CPBC.

Q: If the Town Council took over the Paddocks it would be a nice legacy for the Council!

A: Cllr Anderson advised the Canvey Borough Councillors will be seeking information from the officers at CPBC as at present they are only finding out second hand information.

Q: Can you provide an update on the flooding situation?

A: Cllr Tucker confirmed that Anglian Water have done work estimated at £25m to update the sewer system. He advised that the lack of information is frustrating as Canvey Lake is a fundamental part of the system on Canvey and the Town Council are in limbo as to how to maintain this amenity. He advised that there are committee's looking into these issues, however, he is no longer a Borough Councillor and is unable to give any further information.

A: Cllr Anderson advised members of the public to contact Cllr R. Howard who is on most flood defence committees and maybe able to provide further answers.

Q: Members of Canvey Island Town Council sit on committees at the Borough Council and feel that it is unacceptable that the Town Council cannot give updates and answers as to what is happening and the Town Council should be holding others accountable.

A: Cllr Tucker advised that the Borough Council, Essex County Council, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency all have their own responsibilities and the Town Council do work hard to get involved and seek answers and work in partnership with these groups.

Q: The residents can talk to the Town Council and ask these questions but are unable to do the same with the Borough Council, does it have an ATM?

A: Cllr Tucker advised that this question really should be directed to the Borough Council as it does not hold an ATM.

A discussion took place relating to the forums held by the Borough Council and it was noted that not many residents attended these forums. Residents and Councillors claimed that the forums were not adequately advertised and it was difficult for residents who work to get back onto the island with the current traffic issues in order to make these meetings in time. It was confirmed that when the Town Council is made aware of the forum dates it does advertise these on its Facebook page.

5. CHAIRMANS AWARDS

Cllr Tucker advised that the Town Council Chairman's 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 three award categories which are:

- Citizen of the Year (over 18 years)
- Young Person of the Year (18 years or under)
- Community/Charity Group of the Year.

Cllr Tucker presented the award for Citizen of the Year to Jim Grotier, Chairman of Breath Easy in recognition of his hard work and tireless support for members of the Breath Easy group.

Cllr Tucker presented the award for Community Group of the Year to the Canvey Island MS Club in recognition for their service and support for sufferers of MS on Canvey Island.

Cllr Tucker presented the award for Young Person of the Year to Tyler Marney in recognition of his fund raising efforts for his father and Diabetes UK by walking over 10 miles around Canvey Island and raising over £1,000.

Cllr Tucker congratulated Jim Grotier, the MS Group and Tyler Marney for their contribution to the community of Canvey Island and pictures were taken of the winners.

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

The meeting closed at 20.15pm

Town Mayor

5th March 2018