

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF
CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL
ON MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2024 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Cllr E. Harvey, Cllr P. May, Cllr A. Acott, Cllr S. Brooke, Cllr J. Anderson, Cllr D. Anderson, Cllr B. Botham, Cllr D. Blackwell, Cllr S. Sach, Cllr P. Greig and Cllr S. Sayes.

Also present: Mrs E. De Can – Town Clerk
Mrs A. Wakenell – Community Warden
Mrs K. Bali – Community & Events Officer
1 member of the public.

CO/140/23 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present.

CO/141/23 - TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr J. Anderson, Cllr D. Anderson and Cllr May declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 14 on the agenda.

CO/142/23 - PUBLIC FORUM - TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF CANVEY ISLAND OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TEN MINUTES

Questions to the Town Mayor
From Mary Wirdnam.

Question 1:

As a resident of Canvey Island, I would like my comments below included in the next meeting taking place next month & the minutes forwarded to me via email when produced. Each household pays within their council tax a considerable sum for the Town Council.

- What do we get for that money, is it value for money? Do we need it?
- After reviewing the minutes for the last year, I think residents need to be asked on its viability & continuation for the following reasons:
 - Residents in the rest of castle point do not pay extra in their council tax for a Town Council but they get the same services in their area that we do, example Flower Planters & Christmas Decorations & open green spaces tended to, Lakes etc. looked after from their council tax payment, so why do residents on Canvey have to pay extra but other areas of castle point don't?
 - Why does the council look after services that are not on Canvey but in other areas of Castle Point, why are residents of Canvey paying for services to be done in other areas of Castle Point?
 - The Council receives large sums from our council tax, a lot of what it spends this money on doesn't benefit me, I'd rather the money be spent on different things, shouldn't residents get a say in what you spend the money on?
 - Community Warden? Doing what? Never seen around the island, example could be down the seafront on a Sunday, monitoring dogs off leads, fouling, dog fights, lots of residents won't walk down there because of the large number of dogs not under proper control, we as residents need a say in what we want a warden to do, is it a necessary appointment?
 - There are other Town Council members receiving a salary why another salary?
 - The Town Council isn't accessible, door always locked, we pay for it but it's like it's none of our business?

- I'd like a public meeting where residents can decide on whether we feel a Town Council is worth us paying for? If this was to happen and invite put through every door of every resident on Canvey.

The Town Mayor confirmed that an answer will be sent to the resident by email within 7 working days of this meeting.

Questions to the Leader of the Council
From Sean Quartermaine.

Question 2:

What does this Committee think of the public calls for video surveillance to be installed at critical points around the lake to deter anti-social and criminal behaviour, and assist the police?

The Leader of the Council advised that as Castle Point no longer has a Community Safety Officer a meeting has taken place with the Police District Commander. The police are applying for funding on behalf of CPBC to source 135 new CCTV cameras which will include Canvey Lake. The previous borough administration did not maintain the existing CCTV cameras and all new CCTV will be monitored by Southend headquarters and monitored 24/7. The Town Council works in partnership with the borough and the Police as part of the Community Safety Partnership and all parties are confident that funding will be successful.

CO/143/23 - TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 22ND JANUARY 2024.

Members **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 22nd January 2024 be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Town Mayor.

CO/144/23 - TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 12TH FEBRUARY 2024.

Members noted the minutes of the Policy & Finance meeting held on the 12th February 2024 and **RESOLVED** that the minutes are adopted by the Council and recommendations made were agreed and the minutes are to be signed by the Chairman of the committee at the next Policy & Finance meeting.

CO/145/23 – TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR ON ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS SINCE THE LAST MEETING.

Members noted the activities since the last meeting such as attending the SVP Canvey Food Bank, the Castle Point Mayors Civic Service, the ECC Civic Service at Chelmsford Cathedral and the Cast & Crew Theatre workshop.

CO/146/23 – TO NOTE THERE HAVE BEEN NO OFFICERS DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS SINCE THE LAST MEETING.

Noted.

CO/147/23 – TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT ON THE CLERKS PROGRESS OF ONGOING PROJECTS AND NOT ON THE AGENDA.

Members noted the report on items progressed and completed.

CO/148/23 – PETITIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN – ONE PETITION IS TO BE PRESENTED

Notice had been received of one petition. The Town Clerk presented an online petition provided by Sean Quartermaine supporting the installation of CCTV or alternative video surveillance at Canvey Lake.

CO/149/23 – NOTICE OF MOTION – CONSIDER THE REPORT ATTACHED.

Cllr Brooke had given notice of the following motion:

To set up a voluntary group called Canvey Island Community Action Group with the following aim:

- To help create a clean and tidy safe environment working alongside the Councils ground maintenance contractor to enhance the existing site and assist with the creation of the nature reserve.
- To litter pick the open space around the lake area once a week working on areas outside of the current contract.
- To assist with cutting back the brambles from shrubs and bushes with the guidance of the current contractor.
- To help inform the public with updates by means of leaflets through local surrounding residence doors.
- Encourage residents to help and get involved by working outdoors and enhancing their own health and wellbeing.
- To ensure coordination with the Community Warden and current contractor.

The motion was moved and seconded.

CO/150/23 - TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE REPLACEMENT OF 4 TREES AT TEWKES CREEK.

Members considered the replacement of 4 trees inclusive of budget restrictions and raised concerns at the number of times these trees had been replaced in the past due to vandalism or disease. Members requested that the Community Warden enquire whether these could be replaced through the ECC Forestry Commission fund but if not **RESOLVED** unanimously that these would not be replaced.

CO/151/23 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE OPTIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF AERATION EQUIPMENT AT CANVEY LAKE.

Members considered the options for the purchase of aeration equipment and **RESOLVED** unanimously to purchase the Aqua-Jet Aerator from Air Water Fish Ltd at a cost of £2,546.17 which includes delivery and installation equipment.

CO/152/23 – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE EVENTS AND CONSIDER AND AGREE OPTIONS FOR THE SUMMER EVENTS PROGRAMME AND THE DATE OF THE GARDEN TRAIL.

Members noted the update on the progress of the Armed Forces Day and requested that a meeting is held with parade participants to discuss requirements on the day.

Members **RESOLVED** to purchase Stanchion Frames for signage which can be used for the AFD parade route and many other uses for events at a cost of £153.90 and approved the date of the Garden Trail as 20th July 2024.

Members considered the summer events programme and **RESOLVED** to approve a wildlife picnic with craft activities at Tewkes Picnic area with as many free activities as possible on the 21st August 2024 with a maximum budget of £200 and a Farmers Market at the Bandstand which will source local farmers and food stalls on the 7th August 2024 with a maximum budget of £200.

Members were asked to reconsider the scarecrow competition due to the lack of interest in 2023 and **RESOLVED** to replace this with a Pumpkin Carving Competition for the 30th October 2024 with set entry groups by age, such as, primary school, secondary school, and adult sectors with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize to a maximum of £100.00. Public Entries will have a maximum of 50 applicants to book their place via form by post or email, entry is free but on a first come first serve basis. Judging entries will be in the Town Council offices on a chosen day. School Entries will enter one submission and judging will be done by the Town Mayor in the schools.

CO/153/23 – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BATTERY PROJECT AT THE GUNNY SITE AND CONSIDER THE LEASING OPTIONS.

Members noted the update provided and **RESOLVED** to formalise the main lease of the land with Trust Links excluding the land required for the battery installation.

CO/154/23 - TO CONFIRM ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT PREVIOUSLY AGREED.**11th March 2024 NO 1 ACCOUNT**

Company	Reference	Amount	Description
Viking Office	BACS646	£43.73	Stationery
Top of the Mops	BACS647	£64.00	Office Cleaning 22/02 & 07/03
Aspect Maintenance Ltd	BACS648	£4,793.49	Open Spaces Maintenance – Feb
Bayeswater Fishing	BACS649	£1,300.00	Fish Removal
James Hallam Ltd	BACS650	£628.60	ERS Van Insurance 2024/25
Design 4 Print	BACS651	£42.00	New Opening Times Sign
D Trower	BACS652	£20.00	Window Cleaning 30/1 & 13/2
Pitbitz Limited	BACS653	£325.93	Replacement Gazebo Frame
Vision ICT Ltd	BACS654	£108.00	Domain Hosting May24-Apr26
Amec Plumbing & Heating Limited	BACS655	£75.00	Replacement of broken toilet flush
Pro Mech HVAC Services Ltd	BACS656	£144.00	Annual Air Conditioning Maintenance
Amazon	BACS657	£70.50	ATM Supplies
Initial Washroom Hygiene	BACS658	£92.16	Feminine Hygiene Bins Mar24-Mar25
Horticultural Society	BACS659	£386.75	10% Fee for allotment management
TOTAL		£8,094.16	

CO/155/23 – TO NOTE A REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY WARDEN ON MATTERS RELATING TO CANVEY ISLAND.

Members noted the report. The Community Warden advised that recent fly tipping at Canvey Lake had been investigated and the offending resident informed, issues with the bollard on footpath 11 have escalated and ECC have been informed of the urgency to a resolution of this issue, an update was provided on the recent removal of fish stocks, the ROSPA inspection of the play area was conducted on the 4th March, the bee posts were installed at the Memorial Gardens on the 5th March but could not be installed at the Wildflower Meadow due to the level of water on site, the small hut located at the Memorial Gardens has now been removed and the key for the valve at the Tidal Pool has been provided to Balfour Beatty to allow access to open the valve if required. The Community Warden informed the Council of a recent concern raised regarding the installation of electric at Denham Road bridge and that the HSE had been contacted for clarification of the council's actions. Members were satisfied that the correct policies and protocols had been followed and that advice had been sourced for the original specification of works and that a qualified and competent contractor had been appointed. Members noted that there was at present no electric to the site so therefore no immediate risk to health and noted that depending on the advice from the HSE further work may or may not be required.

CO/156/23 – TO NOTE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORTS DETAILING INCIDENTS AND ACTIONS COMPLETED IN RELATION TO OPEN SPACES.

Members noted the reports.

CO/157/23 - REPORTS FROM CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO CANVEY ISLAND

Cllr Blackwell confirmed that the recently successful funding of £20 million pounds for the Town of Canvey Island formed part of the original levelling up bid made by CPBC. The criteria of the funding bid changed, and Canvey Island was chosen as one of the recipients of the town funding. A town board will be set up which will include local authorities, businesses, and community partners.

CO/158/23 - REPORTS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO CANVEY ISLAND

Cllr May advised that Sydervelt Road is being re-surfaced.

*In accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the Council **RESOLVED** that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of this meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

CO/159/23 - TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE SPECIFICATION FOR CANVEY LAKE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT TENDER.

Members reviewed the specification for the grounds maintenance contract and **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the recommended amendments.

CO/160/23 - TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE SPECIFICATION FOR THE FESTIVE LIGHTING CONTRACT TENDER.

Members reviewed the specification for the festive lighting contract and **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the recommended amendments and submit a tender for a 3-year hire contract. Investigations will take place for the use of the existing council lighting if these are still viable.

CO/161/23 - TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE SPECIFICATION FOR THE LABWORTH GARDENS/BAND STAND CONTRACT TENDER.

Members reviewed the specification for the maintenance contract and **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the recommended amendments.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

TOWN MAYOR

13th May 2024