

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING, CANVEY ISLAND, HELD AT THE PADDOCKS,
LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND, ON MONDAY 10TH MAY
2010 AT 7.30 PM.**

PRESENT:-

Councillor N Harvey (Chairman), Councillor Joan Liddiard (Vice-Chairman), DCI Paul Howell (Essex Constabulary)

ALSO PRESENT:-

Cllrs J Anderson, D Anderson, R Bishop, D Blackwell, P Davies, B Dixie, P Greig, R Howard and N Pontius. 29 members of the public.

CLERK:-

J Burridge

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS:-

Cllr Harvey welcomed all present and thanked them for coming.
He reminded the audience that

As you will know, most of the Town Council members are also Borough Councillors and all those who were up for re-election last week retained their seats. As Independent Councillors, this means that the Town Council continues to have significant weight at Borough level and will do everything in its power to represent the people of Canvey and advance their interests within Castle Point Borough Council. However, the Town Council is different from the Borough Council and it also acts as a first point of contact for the people of Canvey to express their wishes and concerns.

The past twelve months have been a busy period for us. Our Acting Town Clerk, Lynn Lodge, stepped into the breach in May 2009 and I would like to pay tribute publicly to her for the help and hard work that she has given the Town Council over the last twelve months. We now have a new Town Clerk, John Burridge, who joined us at the beginning of April and is now settling into the role.

We have all had a tough fight to prevent the Borough Council from carrying out the demolition of the Tidal Paddling Pool at Concorde Beach. The campaign, spearheaded by Lea and Liz, has brought the threat to the attention of the public and Colin's hard work in getting signatures on the petition has reinforced the community's determination to do all that it can to save this very popular facility for generations to come. The Town Council has appointed a Working Group to discuss the pool with representatives from the Borough and there has been one meeting, with another scheduled. It was agreed with the Borough representatives that these meetings would be confidential and I cannot, therefore, tell you a great deal more, but the Town Council will do everything it can to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion.

The Town Council has also entered into a management agreement with the Borough in respect of Canvey Lake. We have earmarked some of the Council's reserves for work to begin, but this will have to wait until the end of the breeding and nesting seasons. We are working with the Environment Agency and other bodies to improve both the water itself and the appearance of the lake. However, it is going to cost a great deal of money and is not something that can be completed overnight. It will take some years and the work will be

carried out in planned phases to repair the banks, improve access and reduce the reed beds to a more manageable area.

Some of you will have seen from the Echo that the Anglers accused the Town Council of failing to deal with matters quickly and also of failing to involve them in taking decisions. I reject these allegations completely and wish to make it absolutely clear that the Town Council has no intention of banning fishing. Indeed, it is hoped that once the dredging work has been carried out, the quality of fishing will improve.

Last June, we held our first Armed Forces Day, which was tremendous success with over 5,000 people attending and coverage in the national media and letters from the Queen and the Houses of Parliament. To enable the Council to create and promote such events, members appointed Jeff Rickards as the Events and Publicity Officer and he has been working hard on this year's event and other matters. One innovation this year is the recording of a CD by one of our local schoolchildren, Georgia Garrett, which will be available on the day and through the Town Council office. She has recorded Dame Vera Lynn's classic "Now is the Hour" and this will be on sale at £2.00, all profits going to Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion.

We have also established a regular newsletter which is delivered free to every household on the island and which will be expanded and improved over the coming months. We have arranged for the popular hanging baskets to be planted up again this year and arranged Citizen training at the Cornelius Vermuyden School.

Working with others:

The Town Council has done a great deal of work in partnership with other organisations, including the Youth project at Waterside Farm, the installation of 5 notice boards with the assistance of funding from Essex CC through their Community Initiatives Fund and worked with the Police and other organisations to reduce anti-social behaviour at Canvey Wick. The Town Council has representatives on the Highways Panel, and the Neighbourhood Forums

The Council has also worked with the Environment Agency and CPBC to provide improvements to Tewkes Creek and is taking over responsibility for the summer planting at the Seafront Gardens, again working with CPBC.

In the forthcoming year:

Over the next twelve months we shall be working with CPBC to increase the number of allotments, which the TC will manage, putting in place measures to reduce dog fouling, which will see the TC having an officer dealing with this on the streets and working with ECC and the Neighbourhood Forums to access funding for new bus shelters and more street planters.

Chairman

7th March 2011