

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD AT THE PADDOCKS, LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND
MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2011 AT 7.30 PM.**

PRESENT:-

Cllr J. Anderson (Chairman), Cllr J. Liddiard (Vice-Chairman), Cllr D. Blackwell, Cllr B. Dixie and Michaela White, Head of Core Services, CAVS

ALSO PRESENT:-

Cllrs D Anderson, R Bishop, P Greig, R Howard and N Pontius

11 members of the public

Elaine De Can – Town Clerk

Ellea Hunt – Assistant to the Clerk

Jeff Rickards – Events & Publicity Officer

1. 'A review of the Town Council's year, its achievements and its aspirations for the future' COUNCILLOR JOHN ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN, CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr. Anderson welcomed those present and thanked the Town Council's guest, Michaela White, Head of Core Service, CAVS. All Town Councillors and officers on the top table were introduced to the meeting. Cllr. Anderson outlined the Council's achievements in its fourth year which included the 5 year plan for Canvey Lake, Memorial Gardens, introduction of new planters at Jones corner, working with the Environment Agency to enhance Tewkes Creek, continuation of new hanging baskets in the Town Centre, Waterside & Smallgains allotments and various events that have been held during the year.

Cllr Anderson thanked Cllr Rod Bishop for his work with the Highways Departments as the Town Council representative.

Aspirations:

Cllr Anderson confirmed that the Town Council will be continuing or presueing the following:

- To follow through the reclaiming of Canvey Lake with a 3 to 5 year plan, costing in the region of £1,000,000
- More allotment plots at Waterside
- Seafront Memorial Gardens and Bumblebee Park
- Tidal Pool (working with Friends of Concord Beach)
- Regeneration of the Town Centre which will link with Canvey Lake
- Street Markets
- Developing Partnerships

Cllr Anderson advised that the new Town Clerk, Mrs Elaine De Can is a resident of Canvey Island and is employed on a full time basis with a part time Assistant, Ellea Hunt and a full time Events & Publicity Officer, Jeff Rickards.

2. To confirm and sign as a true record the minutes of the Town Meeting held on the 25th March 2010 and the Annual Town Meeting held on the 10th May 2010

The minutes of the Town Meeting held on the 25th March 2010 and the Annual Town Meeting held on the 10th May 2010 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

3. A review of the activities of the Council's Committees:

Community Relations:

Cllr J. Liddiard advised that the Town Council had, had a busy year of community events and advised the public of the following:

Working with Castle Point Neighbourhood Forums in order to consider match funding on projects that they bring to us. By forming this partnership with the forums it is an excellent way to enhance areas around Canvey.

We instigated and worked with Castle Point and Essex County Council to erect a new Flood Memorial Plaque outside the Library. The original plaque had become old and faded and the names had worn away with age. The new plaque not only has the names of those that sadly lost their lives in 1953, but also has a picture of the flood on Canvey etched under the list of names.

First Aid training for schools has again been a big success this year at Castle View School.

Following a spate of purse/bag thefts, in the Town Centre, we, with a donation from Sainsburys, purchased purse security chains and distributed them at Christmas in the Knightswick Centre.

The allotments at Waterside have suffered a series of break-ins with sheds severely damaged and crops trampled on. This year we managed to secure the site with fencing funded from the Community Safety Partnership. We are constantly working with the police and are hoping to have an officer in the office once a week for a community drop-in and a chat.

We now have a new and improved website making it easier to navigate through our information pages. We constantly strive to inform all of our residents through our regular quarterly newsletters and information boards.

We are currently in the process of preparing a Town Guide. There will be lots of information on local interests for local residents and to promote tourism on Canvey. We have a lot of history here and this is one way of promoting it.

Events

For the second year running we hosted an Armed Forces Day. This again was a huge success with many hundreds of people turning out to cheer representatives of the armed forces and uniformed organizations. The nostalgic evening was great with performances from the Rat Pack and the runners up from Britain's Got Talent, Irristable. We also had a medley of 40's songs from Canvey's own songbird Georgia Garrett.

We held our first Wild life event in May at the new RSPB site at West Canvey Marshes. This was a free event for everyone who attended, this included, face painting, bouncy castles, wildlife quiz, pond dipping and talks on wildlife in general. We had two celebrities from the BBC's The One Show, Mike Dilger and Des Coleman. It was amazing to see families together, enjoying themselves, picnicking etc.

In October we had our first Citizens Awards evening. Again a huge success, bringing together people of all ages who had been nominated for achieving something beyond their normal capabilities.

Then there was Christmas. For the first time ever Canvey High Street was closed off all day from Waarden Road to Lionel Road. We had a street market, children's rides and street entertainment. A centre stage with non-stop entertainment hosted by Sue and Martin from

Heart FM. Carol singers, dance troupes, games, Lady Gaga, and pen ultimately topping the bill was Take That and of course Father Christmas turning on the lights. This year we added more street lights to the Town Centre and of course the usual two Christmas Trees. All the shops were busier than ever, in fact, Greggs the Bakers had to send out for supplies as they had run out of bread, rolls and hot food.

Forthcoming year

We will be looking into maintaining the Lifeguard Memorial Gardens, situated at the bottom of the seawall at Lubbins, behind the new toilet block, markets for the Town Centre and Knightswick and more lights and trees in different areas of Canvey for Christmas.

We are in the process of organizing a much asked for event – Canvey Festival. This will be held along the seafront, again with craft stalls, and non-stop entertainment.

Environment & Open Spaces:

Cllr J. Anderson provided a brief explanation of the achievements made by the Environment & Open Spaces committee as follows:

- Skate Park and Bungalow – the youth of Castle Point designed this park and its structures.
- Waterside Farm allotments – new fencing has been erected and additional plots will become available hopefully next year.
- Town Centre lights, planters and two new planters at Jones's Corner
- Continuation of maintaining the planting in the Memorial Gardens
- Considering the transfer of the Memorial Gardens & Bumblebee Park to the Town Council
- 5 year plan of Canvey Lake
- Working with Castle Point Borough Council and the Environment Agency to enhance Tewkes Creek/Creeky Woods.
- Tidal Pool – following a safety report and strong feelings from the public the Town Council have agreed to take on the responsibility of the pool and are in negotiation with Castle Point Borough Council to ensure this happens before the summer months.

Cllr Anderson requested that the public make suggestions to the Town Council of projects that they consider would be of benefit to the Island as there is a four year plan and the Town Council are looking to increase the projects in the forthcoming years.

Policy and Finance:

Cllr J. Liddiard provided an update on the progress of the Policy & Finance committee in the absence of Cllr N. Harvey which is as follows:

- Budget for 2010/2011 remained unchanged at £265,941
- Town Councillors received first aid training
- Purchased key fobs for supermarket trolleys free of charge
- Unfortunately there has been some vandalism to the Town Office and it was necessary to purchase extra security. The area/car park behind the office is very dark, therefore required CCTV and security lighting.
- Throughout the year grants have been provided to the following recipients:
 - Castle Point Transport Museum - £500.00
 - Royal British Legion (Battle of Britain celebrations) £500.00
 - Amelia Blackwell House - £500.00
 - Island Boys and Girls - £300.00
 - Winter Gardens Baptist Church - £452.87

Forthcoming year

Budget for 2011/2012 – the Town Council requested that the precept remain unchanged, however due to denominations two options were offered:

A tax of £20.61 which would result in a payment of £265,889.61

A tax of £20.70 which would result in a payment of £267,050.70

As the proposal for a Band D tax rate was £20.61 (£265,941 divided by 12,901) the Town Council opted for a precept of the lower rate of £265,889.61, which is a slight decrease of £51.39

This equates to a Council Tax decrease of £0.36p per year, which I am sure you will appreciate in these difficult times is a bonus.

4. OPEN FORUM – Questions will be invited from members of the public relating to the activities of Canvey Island Town Council

Members of the public were invited to address questions to the relevant committee chairman. The following questions were raised:

1. To try to eradicate the anti social behaviour on the Island, the Town Council should try to interact with the youth and support projects that involve them. It was suggested that a volunteer group be set up as a start with the possibility of allocating an allotment plot which the youth can use and be educated in growing vegetable and learn how to look after plots rather than destroy them. Cllr Anderson explained that the Town Council do work with Legacy XS and have supported and financially contributed to the addition of a youth worker for the Island.
2. Dog Fouling – an update was requested as to what the Town Council were intending to do to combat this problem. Cllr Anderson explained that CPBC have now introduced new Dog Control Orders and that the Clerk has had discussions with them regarding how the Town Council can work with CPBC to combat this issue. The Clerk confirmed that the Town office have forms which CPBC have requested that the public complete to establish the problem areas on the Island and which time of day is better for the wardens to patrol. A Community Officer will be employed by the Town Council once the job description and salary have been agreed.
3. What does that Town Council planning committee do? Planning applications appear to have no comment made by the Town Council. Cllr Dixie explained the process followed by the Town Council regarding planning applications and confirmed that the Town Council do not always receive the applications that have indicated no response.

5. 'Castle Point Association of Voluntary Service' – Michaela White, Head of Core Service

Michaela White provided a brief explanation of the services that CAVS provide and explained that they are there to help organisations recruit volunteers and assist organisations with funding requests, how to obtain funding and who from.

Canvey Project – this is a project that CAVS are working with ECC on to provide £10,000 to a voluntary group on Canvey for Adult Health and Well Being. ECC are asking groups to come forward with a viable idea to provide a service and will choose the top three ideas which will then go to a public vote. The public will choose through a ballot process which service they feel would benefit from this funding.

Big Lunch Campaign – this is a national campaign which was started by the Eden Project and will commence through the week of the 30th May to the 5th June. If public land is to be used there will be no requirement to provide public liability insurance as it will be covered

under the CAVS insurance as long as the group have gone through CAVS to set up their lunch.

6. OPEN 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 Chairman. No further questions were submitted.

Cllr. Anderson thanked Michaela White, the staff of the Town Council and the community for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chairman

30th April 2012