

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD IN HALL 2 AT THE PADDOCKS, LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND
MONDAY 22ND APRIL 2013 AT 7.00 PM.**

PRESENT:-

Cllr P. Greig (Chairman), Cllr D. Anderson (Vice Chairman), Cllr J. Anderson and Essex Police, Mark McQuade, Sergeant, Canvey Island Police Station, Chief Inspector Ian Cummings and Inspector Chris Wood.

ALSO PRESENT:-

Cllrs P May, D Blackwell, L. Swann, R Howard, N Harvey, J Liddiard and A Acott
120 members of the public
Elaine De Can – Town Clerk
Ellea Hunt – Assistant to the Clerk
Geraldine Vallis – Community & Events Officer
Jess Fisher – 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.

1. 'A review of the Town Council's year, its achievements and its aspirations for the future'

COUNCILLOR PETER GREIG, CHAIRMAN, CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Greig welcomed all residents, guests and all the community groups who came along and supplied a presentation stall for the evening (Citizens Advice Bureau, Friends of Concord Beach, Essex Police, Canvey Library, RSPB, Canvey Island Youth Project, CAVS and Neighbourhood Watch. Cllr Greig provided details of the grants totalling £2,980 for 2012/13 and the partnerships that the Council has set up during the year. Cllr Greig detailed the Council's main achievements for 2012/13 which were providing the PCT drop kerb which was match funded by CPBC, quarterly newsletters, the purchase of the civic flag which was dedicated by Rev Tudor at St Nicholas church in September 2012, working with local schools and the Police, producing a new Town Guide, the Wildlife Event which was a great success followed a few weeks later by the Armed Forces Day, the Garden Trail, the Diamond Jubilee and the Christmas lights switch on event. To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1953 flood and the 58 people who lost their lives the Town Council attended the remembrance service in Chelmsford Cathedral and unveiled a plaque with the names of all those who died in the flood.

The forthcoming events for 2013/14 are the Wildlife Day on 25th May, Armed Forces Day 29th June, Garden Trail on 20th July and the Christmas light switch on 30th November.

2. To confirm and sign as a true record the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 30TH April 2012

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 30th April 2012 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

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

Environment & Open Spaces:

Cllr Anderson advised that the Town Council has been gradually taking on the upkeep of areas on the Island such as the Seafront Gardens which had sadly fallen into disrepair since the disbanding of Canvey 2000 and the Bumblebee Park Gardens. Beside Tewkes Creek the Town Council in partnership with the Borough has created a picnic area with some trees and picnic tables which are well used in the summer months by families. The tidal pool has been a great success and kept open

with the support of Friends of Concord Beach. The Town centre has been brightened up with hanging baskets and planters with lovely displays of summer planting outside of the Knightswick Centre. A new 3 tier planter was installed at Jones Corner at the request of the shop owners where there are already 2 planters outside the butchers which were installed the previous year.

The Town Council also support the Waterside Skate Park Bungalow by providing financial support for a youth worker and the cleaning and insurance for the building.

Canvey Lake is a 5 year project that the Town Council is working on to clean it up and make it a pleasant area to walk in. A management plan is in place to clear away reeds, make a decent pathway on the South side, install new litter bins, the Denham Road car park and un-adopted road has been repaired and resurfaced with a new fence surrounding the car park. Cllr Anderson advised that the lake is an inland waterway and overflow but not a lake as such which provides challenges when trying to enhance the area.

Cllr Anderson confirmed that the Community Officer has been working hard to encourage residents who live around the Lake to help or just report any rubbish being dumped by illegal fly tippers and now has the authority to issue Fixed Penalty Fines on behalf of CPBC.

A new project we have taken on is 4 large flower beds on the seafront embankment by the Bandstand. Originally rose bushes had been planted by Canvey 2000 but have since been left to deteriorate. The Town Council has saved 4 of those beds and will be replanting and maintaining them in the future along with the Seafront Gardens.

Cllr Anderson advised residents that this is their Town Council and asked residents to give some of their ideas as to what could be done on the island so that the Town Council can review the possibilities.

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:

Q: How many Fixed Penalty Fines have been issued?

A: There have been no fines issued to date.

Q: Whilst walking along the seawall at 8.30am each morning there are many dog walkers who have been witnessed allowing their dog to foul?

A: The Community Warden advised that she has to see this for herself in order to issue fines and in the last year before she was given the authority to issue fines only witnessed a total of 5 people allowing their dogs to foul.

Q: Are Pinnacle putting a number of enforcing officers in place for their contract?

A: This is not an answer that the Town Council can provide. Sgt McQuade advised that any person witnessing dog fouling can report this to the police with the time and place and officers will be sent to review this to help support the Town Council.

Another resident advised that he had spoken to Pinnacle operatives and was advised that the seafront was to be made a priority and they were working from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week clearing dog mess, litter and weeds.

Q: Do these operatives work on behalf of CPBC?

A: Yes.

Q: Why is the Town Council not pushing CPBC to make these areas better and why are we paying the Town Council to do the same job?

A: The Town Council do report issues to CPBC and a new contract has been put in place.

Q: A lot of investment has been put into Canvey Lake for anti fishing at the east end of the lake and a report was made to the Community Warden regarding fishing in these areas but was advised that no enforcement powers were available?

A: The Town Council are looking into new byelaws in order to provide enforcement, no time limit was possible.

Q: Why do we still have un-adopted roads in the 20th Century?

A: This should be directed to ECC.

Q: San Remo Road – Essex Coach Works are causing traffic & parking issues. This has been reported to 3 Councillors but this is still happening?

A: Cllr Liddiard advised that this has been reported and confirmed that the parking is an issue. Sgt McQuade offered to visit the site and speak to the occupants regarding the traffic obstruction.

Q: The new pool at Concord Beach still has Health & Safety issues; can the Town Council liaise with CPBC to get this work done?

A: The Town Clerk will write to CPBC.

Q: Are there any plans for the empty shops in the Town Centre?

A: This is not something that the Town Council can assist with.

Q: Why should residents pay for parking in the Town Centre?

A: The Town Council is unable to answer this question as parking is an initiative by CPBC

5. 'Police Matters' – presentation from Mark McQuade, Sergeant, Canvey Island Police Station. Chief Inspector Ian Cummings and Inspector Chris Wood will also be in attendance.

Sgt Mark McQuade introduced himself and advised that he has worked on Canvey Island for 2 to 3 years. He presented his colleagues PC Adam Clarke, PC Katie Parker and PCSO Steve Holland who have all had between 3 to 6 years service on Canvey Island.

Sgt McQuade provided a presentation detailing police statics, figures on burglaries, car theft, personal robbery, fraud and various other crimes. Information was provided on how to prevent crime and help to secure homes and cars. Information was given on various recent scams and details of how to spot these issues in order to not be taken in. Sgt McQuade advised that Castle Point have the lowest crime rates and have had a 16.9% reduction in anti social behaviour. This is helped by the Police, Councils and residents working together which includes neighbourhood meetings and Council public meetings which assist with community cohesion. Information was provided for contact details such as Police UK, Essex Police website, Canvey Police mobile 07791680413, crime stoppers and the non-emergency number 101.

Sgt McQuade also advised that there have been many success stories and 15 warrants have been issued in the last 18 months.

The next neighbourhood meeting is to be held on the 15th May at the Paddocks at 3pm.

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 Police.

The Chairman invited Chief Insp Cummins to respond to the questions which had been provided in writing in advance of the meeting.

Q: It used to be that I regularly saw patrols of Neighbourhood Police Officer and I knew who they were and tried to build up a rapport with them. I now have no idea who they are and never see one around?
A: I would like to have more officers but have just lost 42 million pounds from the budget which has caused a reduction in staff, however, we are determined to minimise the impact on the front line service and Canvey has retained the local Police station where others have closed.

Q: As you are aware Facebook and Twitter are increasingly raising concerns as to what is being said on them. If a complaint is made to you whether about what is on Facebook, Twitter or newspaper web sites what action will you take?
A: Policing the internet is almost impossible, evidence needs to be gathered and the crown prosecution will decide whether there is enough evidence. These cases have to be dealt with as individual cases and reviewed separately.

Q: Why is it that when a non urgent matter is phoned to the police the follow up is usually non existant? Why is it when a matter is reported an incident number is not automatically given but has to be asked for?
A: 999 calls are for emergencies only and 101 is for non emergencies which could be all most anything therefore an incident number may not be necessary.

At this point of the meeting the police were praised by a member of the public who had reported some incidents and received prompt and curtious responses.

Q: Why do Police Officers drive past obvious offences but do nothing?
A: This is at the officers discretion, capacity and demand. The scope of the police demand is huge and has to be assessed case by case.

Q: Emails have been sent to the Police Commissioner and copies to the MP but no response received. What is the point of having him?
A: This was not answered.

Q: Are there any departments of Essex Police that are due to be privatised or 'out sourced'?
A: Some departments have been reduced in number and resources are being shared with the Kent Constabulary but there are no plans to privatise or out source at present.

Q: Is the issue of motorbikes on the island classed as anti social behaviour or a criminal offence?
A: This tends to be intermitent and difficult to identify the person concerned. Details of the offender should be provided to the police.

The Chairman asked residents to pose any further questions to the police after the meeting.

To close the meeting Cllr Grieg thanked the Police and residents for attending and supporting the Town Council.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman

24th March 2014