

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF
CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 13 HIGH STREET, CANVEY ISLAND ON
MONDAY 04TH APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: Cllr. P. Greig (Chairman), Cllr M. Tucker (Vice Chairman), Cllr. J Anderson, Cllr. D. Anderson, Cllr. T. Belford, Cllr. B Campagna, Cllr D. Blackwell, Cllr. N. Harvey and Cllr P May

Also present: Mrs E Hunt – Town Clerk
Mrs L Windley – Community & Events Officer
Mrs A Ruskin – Community Warden
15 members of the public

CO/110/15 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J. Blissett provided her apologies.

CO/111/15 - TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr D. Blackwell declared non pecuniary interests in Item 9, Item 10 and Item 12 on the agenda.

CO/112/15 - PUBLIC FORUM - TO RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY OF CANVEY ISLAND ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TEN MINUTES

Mr G Bracci requested to speak on Item 8 of the agenda. Mr Bracci commented that the new version of the Local Plan was unsupported and that councillors had expressed a lack of confidence in it. Mr Bracci added that if the new plan was not sound that a Government Officer would take control of the plan. He added that an emerging Neighbourhood Plan could give the Government Officer evidence of the vision for development on the island. He added that a Neighbourhood Plan could look at proposed sites for adoption as conservation areas and could improve the existing infrastructure. Mr Bracci advised that there was funding available from Local Government of up to £14,000 in order for the Town Council to progress the preparation of a plan.

Mr Sawkins requested to speak on Item 8 of the agenda. Mr Sawkins commented that by preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, the Council could ensure that development is in compliance with any conditions set out for development on the island. Mr Sawkins commented that he was disgraced by the deprivation issues outlined in the 2016 Local Plan and believes these should be withdrawn. Mr Sawkins drew members attention to items 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9 and 4.10 of the 2016 Local Plan and asked members to take these matters into consideration.

Mr Farrow requested to speak on Item 8 of the agenda. He explained that he had attended at the last forum meeting and following discussions at that meeting questioned whether Canvey Island should be built on at all due to the proximity of hazardous sites and other issues highlighted.

CO/113/15 - TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH MARCH 2016

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 07th March 2016 were then **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

CO/114/15 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ONGOING PROJECTS AND NOT ON THE AGENDA

Cllr P. Greig provided members with an update of the matters arising from ongoing projects and not on the agenda.

CO/115/15 – TO NOTE THE REPORT OF OFFICER DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Members noted the report of officer decisions and background papers.

CO/116/15 – TO NOTE THE EXPIRATION OF NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY FOR CANVEY ISLAND EAST WARD AND CONSIDER CO-OPTION OF A TOWN COUNCILLOR.

Members noted the expiration of the notice of casual vacancy for Canvey Island East Ward.

Cllr D. Blackwell moved to advertise the vacancy for a period of ten working days to attract possible candidates for co-option and to plan a meeting of full council on 25th April 2016 to consider the co-option of a candidate as recommended in the Clerks report. The motion was seconded by Cllr T. Belford.

Members voted and **RESOLVED** to advertise the vacancy for ten working days and to meet on the 25th April 2016 to consider and co-opt a candidate for Canvey Island East Ward.

CO/117/15 – TO CONSIDER CARRYING OUT A PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO ASCERTAIN THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY OF CANVEY ISLAND TO PREPARE A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members were asked to consider carrying out a public consultation to ascertain the interest of the community of Canvey Island to prepare a neighbourhood plan.

Cllr D. Blackwell advised members that Castle Point Borough Council were due to undertake a consultation on a new local plan and commented that it would be prudent for the Town Council to carry out further investigation into what benefits a neighbourhood plan could offer ahead of carrying out a public consultation. He explained that it is a complex, costly and time consuming exercise and that the Council should be confident of the information before they present to the members of the public. Cllr D. Blackwell recommended that the Council consider setting up a working group to carry out further investigations in this matter.

Cllr J. Anderson commented that he had been a member on the Planning Committee at Castle Point Borough Council for over twelve years and undertaken a lot of training in this time to understand the planning process agreeing that it is a complex matter requiring further investigation. Cllr J. Anderson agreed with Cllr D. Blackwell's recommendation to set up a working group to investigate this further.

Cllr T. Belford commented that he took a contrary view. Cllr T. Belford explained that the members were being asked to consider consulting with the community of Canvey Island to ascertain their interest in carrying out a plan. Cllr T. Belford explained that if it was found that there was no interest in the Council preparing a plan then it need go no further.

Cllr M. Tucker commented that in order for the Council to properly consult on this matter it needs to fully understand what a plan can offer and what it cannot do. Cllr M. Tucker requested that the members meet with the Planning Officers of Castle Point Borough Council to discuss with them what can be achieved in preparing a plan and agreed with Cllr D. Blackwell that a working group should be formed to carry out investigations in this matter.

Members discussed whether a time limit should be made to carry out the investigations and **AGREED** that the council should meet again at the end of June to discuss the item further.

Members considered carrying out a consultation with the community of Canvey Island to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and **RESOLVED** eight members in favour with one member against to defer the item until further investigations had been completed and that a working group be set up to investigate the matter further asking members who wanted to be on this group to contact the Town Clerk.

CO/118/15 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CHILDRENS CENTRE CONSULTATION

Members discussed the proposals outlined in the consultation to have one Family Hub per district supported by a range of local Family Hub delivery sites and outreach sites.

The Consultation outlines the closure of three centres on Canvey Island; Canvey Resource Centre, Little Gypps Canvey Island, offering as a proposed alternative for delivery of service, a Family Hub Outreach Site within Canvey Library and delivery from Thorney Bay Caravan Park, Little Lions Childrens Centre, Northwick Park Primary School, Third Avenue, Canvey Island, offering as a proposed alternative use of the site as a new child care opportunity and Little Tewkes Childrens Centre, Dovervelt Road, Canvey Island offering no proposed alternative use of the site.

Members raised concerns that these three sites were well used on Canvey Island and that their closure will leave some parents and young adults feeling vulnerable and isolated. Members discussed the proposed alternative delivery of services and raised concerns over the proposed delivery sites. Cllr D. Blackwell commented that Thorney Bay Caravan Park was not an ideal location for parents and carers to be taking young children to and that having a Main Hub at Thundersley Library was too far for families on Canvey Island to have to travel.

Cllr D. Blackwell commented that the Childrens Centres were proposing to deliver a range of services and activities as well as co-ordinating all of the support and services for families with children from pregnancy up to the age of 19.

Cllr J. Anderson commented that at the recent Canvey Island East Forum meeting the Councillors felt that the centres were an important resource for parents and young persons and wanted to keep all three open.

Members considered their response to the Essex County Council Children's Centre Consultation and **RESOLVED** that each member would individually submit a response on line and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk write a letter to Essex County Council confirming that the Town Council object to the proposed closure of the three Childrens Centres on Canvey Island.

CO/119/15 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL FIRE AND RESCUE CONSULTATION

Members discussed the Essex County Council Fire and Rescue Consultation.

Cllr D. Blackwell commented that Option 2 outlined in the consultation was showing as the most favourable option giving a 2% increase (about £1.35 on a Band D property (per year) in the fire service portion of council tax and a smaller reduction in response resources than option 1. Cllr D. Blackwell commented that the Fire and Rescue Service had been carrying out a lot of preventative works most recently with the offer of installation of smoke detection systems in peoples home free of charge and giving advice and guidance of what to do in the event of a fire.

Cllr D. Blackwell commented that at present only 30 people out of a Borough of approximately 80,000 people had responded to the consultation and was concerned as this is a very important issue.

Cllr N. Harvey commented that it had not been very well publicised and this could be the reason for the poor response.

Cllr T. Belford recommended that due to the poor response to the consultation that the members should consider individually submitting their responses on line to increase the number of responses received to the consultation.

The Town Clerk commented that whilst the Town Council did not have a social media site that this is a very effective medium for reaching a wider target audience. Cllr D. Blackwell commented that he had shared the consultation on a social media site and encouraged others to do so.

Cllr J. Anderson commented that in a recent simulation carried out by Essex County Council Fire and Rescue Service the service was unable to get to Canvey Island in the seven minutes that they had committed to as a service delivery target. Cllr D. Blackwell commented that this has now been moved to eleven minutes.

Members considered their response to the Essex County Council Fire and Rescue Consultation and **RESOLVED** that due to the lack of responses received on the consultation so far that each member would individually submit a response on line and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk write a letter confirming that the Town Council do not support any of the options outlined in the consultation as there were concerns that the Fire and Rescue Service were not currently meeting their service delivery targets of seven minutes and further cuts to the service could adversely impact the safety of the community of Canvey Island.

CO/120/15 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE POTENTIAL OUTER THAMES ESTUARY SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA (PsPA)

Members considered the formal consultation on the potential Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection area (PsPA) and **RESOLVED** that each member would individually submit a response on line and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk write a letter confirming that the Town Council support the case for scientific classification of the pSPA.

CO/121/15 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTHEND ON SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL JOINT REPLACEMENT WASTE LOCAL PLAN

Members discussed the Essex Council and Southend on Sea Borough Council Join Replacement Local Plan.

Members commented that the number of consultation documentations which formed part of the engagement was excessive and lengthy and could deter members of the public from submitting their comments on the Replacement Waste Local Plan – Pre-Submission Draft (March 2016).

Members discussed the soundness of the document prepared and **AGREED** that the plan was positively prepared based on a strategy which objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements where it was reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development. Members **AGREED** that the plan was justified and was the most appropriate strategy considering reasonable alternatives and was based on proportionate evidence. Members **AGREED** that the plan was effective in deliverable over its period based on effective joint working on cross-boundary and strategic priorities and was consistent with the national policy enabling delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the (Minerals and Waste Development) Framework.

Members discussed the legal compliance of the Plan and **AGREED** that the plan was legally compliant, prepared in line with the plan making regulations set out by Government.

CO/122/15 – TO NOTE THE REPORTS PROVIDED FROM THE FOLLOWING FORUM GROUPS:

- i) **Wyvern Community Transport**
Members noted the report provided.
- ii) **Parish Transport**
Members noted the report provided.
- iii) **EALC Executive Committee**
Members noted the draft minutes provided.

CO/123/15 – TO CONFIRM ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT PREVIOUSLY AGREED.

Accounts **APPROVED** and cheques for No1 account 202519 to 202525 inclusive were signed.

CO/124/15 - REPORT FROM COMMUNITY WARDEN ON MATTERS RELATING TO CANVEY ISLAND

The Community Warden advised members that she had recently organised a community fun day at the Canvey Lake 'Love your Lake' day, where families could join in fun activities such as pond dipping and childrens crafts. The Community added that the event was a huge success which saw over 300 visitors in attendance and that she had received lots of great feed back from visitors.

The Community Warden advised members that as part of the outreach work ahead of the Love Your Lake Day event she had visited local residents to advise them that the event would be taking place and had managed to recruit three new volunteers for the Canvey Island Lake Watch group.

The Community Warden advised members that she had received interest from the members of the Environment Agency who were in attendance about holding another educational event at the lake perhaps in the summer around fishing but that this was only a tentative enquiry at the moment.

The Community Warden advised members that the Town Council had organised a Pet Day which is going to be held at the Lake on Saturday 9th April 2016 and that she will be in attendance with a promotional stand educating about the effects of dog fouling and litter on the environment.

The Community Warden advised that there had been an issue with fly tipping by a repeat offender residing near to Canvey Lake and that she had together with an officer of Castle Point Borough Council visited at the property and that this matter was now being progressed further by Castle Point Borough Council.

The Community Warden advised members that the car that was recovered from the lake had not been claimed by the owner and that this had now been removed from the Town Councils car park and was being dealt with as an abandoned vehicle by Castle Point Borough Council.

CO/125/15 - REPORTS FROM CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO CANVEY ISLAND

There were no matters to report.

CO/126/15 - REPORTS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS ON MATTERS RELATING TO CANVEY ISLAND

There were no matters to report.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

CHAIRMAN
25th April 2016