

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE OF THE CANVEY ISLAND TOWN
COUNCIL HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, 13 HIGH STREET, CANVEY ISLAND ON
MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2016 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr J. Anderson (Chairman), Cllr D. Anderson, Cllr B. Campagna, Cllr J. Blissett, Cllr M. Tucker Cllr A. Acott

NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Cllr P Greig, Cllr T. Belford

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs E Hunt – Town Clerk.
Mrs A Ruskin – Community Warden
3 members of the public.

E&OS/001/16 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were none.

E&OS/002/16 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

E&OS/003/16 – TO APPOINT A VICE CHAIRMAN TO THE COMMITTEE FOR 2016/17

Cllr M. Tucker nominated Cllr D. Anderson as Vice-Chairman and the nomination was seconded by Cllr P.Greig. There were no other nominations therefore Cllr D. Anderson was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2016/17.

E&OS/004/16 – 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.

No members wished to speak.

E&OS/005/16 – TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 25th April 2016.

The minutes of the committee meeting held on the 25th April 2016 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

E&OS/006/16 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ONGOING PROJECTS AND NOT ON THE AGENDA

Cllr J. Anderson provided with members with an update of the ongoing projects not on the agenda.

The Community Warden updated members on the investigations that have been carried out following the recommendations made in the structural survey report carried out of Concord Beach Tidal Pool and Members resolution made at the meeting of the Committee held in April 2016. She explained that many of the Contractors that she had approached had declined to quote and all have said that they would not guarantee any of the works that they would carry out to the sea facing rock formation of the tidal pool. The Community Warden informed members that she had met with a Contractor on site to discuss the operation and that following that meeting the contractors explained that they could carry out the works, however, it would be very costly and they could not guarantee the work.

The Community Warden advised that she had also spoken with a local contractor about alternative solutions to those recommended in the Survey Report and advised Members that it was recommended by that contractor that the void could be filled with smaller rocks, however, this work would not be guaranteed either.

The Community Warden advised members that she had recently attended at a Playground inspection course at the Essex Association of Local Councils and had made enquiries about the

recommendations made and investigations that had been carried out and was advised by the tutor that there is adequate Health and Safety signage in place at the Tidal Pool for visitors advising them of the risks at this location. She added that the tutor explained that it can be shown that the risks have been assessed and hazards controlled as far as is reasonably practicable.

Members considered and noted the advice received.

Cllr J. Anderson asked the Town Clerk to provide Members with an update on the Lease negotiations for Bumblebee Park and the Seafront Gardens. The Town Clerk advised Members that she had received an update from the Solicitor appointed by the Town Council from Essex County Council Legal Services Team to negotiate the Lease, that there is still one final point to be agreed within the Lease with Castle Point Borough Council. She explained the provisions at part 39, Exclusion of the landlord and Tenant Act 1954, remain within the lease, which removes the Town Councils potential to negotiate a new lease at the end of the term. She added that the Solicitor will continue to negotiate this on the Town Councils behalf and it is hoped that the matter is resolved in the near future.

Cllr J. Anderson commented that the Town Council plans to revamp the memorial gardens should be delayed until this matter has been resolved.

Cllr M. Tucker commented that he was disappointed, however, agreed that the matter needs to be resolved before the Town Council are able to go ahead with the works in the gardens.

Cllr M. Tucker requested an update on the foreshore erosion study from the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk advised that she had not received further correspondence in this matter and was awaiting confirmation of a meeting date with Southend Borough Council. Cllr B. Campagna advised that there were discussions about the recharging of the beach with sand, however, these discussions were still taking place and would be dependent upon dredging operations.

The Community Warden advised that she had been advised by a member of Canvey Bay Watch who had attended at meetings regarding the recharging of the beaches that it would be approximately 2 – 3 years before dredging works are carried out and then it would be dependent upon the material that is dredged as it may not be suitable to use. Cllr B. Campagna commented that the Town Council should have representation at these meetings as this directly affects the Tidal Pool as it sits along the same foreshore. Cllr B. Campagna asked if the Town Clerk could write to the Head of Environment and the Cabinet Member for Environment, Street Scene and Halls at Castle Point Borough Council to request an invitation to the next meeting to discuss foreshore erosion as the Town Council are responsible for the Tidal Pool and should have representation to investigate how erosion will affect it.

Cllr J. Anderson informed Members that the Town Council were investigating funding opportunities for the replacement of the bow top fencing at the Waterside Farm Allotment site.

E&OS/007/16 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE COSTS TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL SIGNAGE IN THE LABWORTH MEMORIAL GARDENS.

Members were asked to consider the artwork provided for the signage and costs to purchase and install these in the Labworth Memorial Gardens. Members discussed the designs and **RESOLVED** to purchase 2 no. channelled signs, one of each of the designs provided, from Design 4 Print at a total cost of £793.37 exc VAT inclusive of installation to be installed in the Labworth Memorial Gardens.

E&OS/008/16 – TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY RELATING TO PAINTING THE SEA WALL PANEL ADJACENT THE TIDAL POOL.

The Town Clerk advised Members that the Town Council had received correspondence from the Environment Agency, a copy of which was provided to each Member, that stated that as the proposed painting of the sea wall panel adjacent to Concord Beach would not have any detrimental effect on the Environment Agency's maintenance or inspection of the seawall, the activity was not

considered to be a “flood risk activity” regulated under the Environment Permitting Regulations and the Town Council could therefore proceed without the need for a permit. She added that the Environment Agency requested that five days prior to the commencement of works that they are notified so that their Operations Management Field Team are aware.

Members noted the correspondence.

E&OS/009/16 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE ARTWORK FOR THE SEA WALL PANEL.

Members considered the mural design provided by the Town Clerk to be painted on the sea wall adjacent the Concord Beach Tidal Pool and **RESOLVED** to proceed with the mural design provided.

E&OS/010/16 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE QUOTES RECEIVED TO PAINT THE SEA WALL PANEL.

Members were asked to consider and agree the quotes received to paint the sea wall panel and **RESOLVED** to appoint artist Sharon Vane at a total cost of £60.00.

Cllr B. Campagna enquired whether the cost of the quote included for a wax covering to protect the finish of the artwork.

The Community Warden advised that the paint to be used by the artist has been kindly donated by Canvey Supply Limited which had enabled the artist to keep the cost down and that she would be meeting with the artist in the near future so will be able to discuss the wax covering further with her then.

Councillors discussed the donation of paints and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk write a letter of thanks to Canvey Supply Limited for the donation.

E&OS/011/16 – TO NOTE THE FOUR YEAR PLAN AND PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Cllr J. Anderson commented that the recent Wildlife Day Event had been very successful and had grown on the success of the previous year and thanked all of the Councillors and staff who volunteered on the day.

Cllr J. Anderson provided members with an update on the proposed play area at Canvey Lake.

Cllr T. Belford provided members with an update on the investigations he was asked to carry out in relation to Neighbourhood Watch. The Town Clerk advised that Neighbourhood Watch newsletters were available in the Town Councils foyer for collection by the co-ordinators following the closure of the front desk at the Police Station in Long Road.

Cllr A. Acott advised that he had received correspondence advising that there was a number of Neighbourhood Watch signs available and asked Members to recommend streets where these signs were needed.

Cllr J. Blissett asked for an update on the Litter Picking project. The Community Warden advised Members that there had been one successful litter pick organised in partnership with Castle Point Borough Council which was carried out in the Avenues and that she will be meeting with Castle Point Borough Council’s Contracts Manager soon to discuss further litter picking opportunities. Cllr J. Blissett commented that a litter pick project had been recommended where larger items could be cleared for residents as a one off project. The Community Warden advised that she would also speak with the Contracts Manager about the possibility of doing this and would report back to the committee.

Cllr J. Anderson asked if the Town Council could consider a Canvey in Bloom event for the future to be included in the plan and that this be put before the Community Relations Committee for consideration. The Town Clerk advised that any events which had not been budgeted for in this financial year would need to have a budget considered for inclusion in the budget for future years.

Members discussed the potential for additional floral arrangements across the island and the potential for sponsorship from local businesses as they are in other parishes.

Members reviewed and noted the Four Year Plan.

E&OS/012/16 – TO NOTE THE REPORT FOLLOWING STRUCTURAL COLUMN TESTING COMPLETED FOR SEASONAL DECORATIONS

Members reviewed the report provided following the structural column testing completed for seasonal decorations. Members noted that three columns remain unusable and discussed the potential relocation of the 6 remaining basket halves that are no longer able to be installed.

Members discussed testing and utilising alternative lamp columns in the Town Centre. Members **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk carry out investigations for testing and permissions to utilise alternative lamp columns in the Town Centre and the possible relocation of the 6 remaining basket halves.

Cllr M. Tucker asked if the Town Clerk could obtain a report detailing who is responsible for each column, whether the column has been tested and whether the column has been passed for use. The Town Clerk advised that she would contact Essex County Council to enquire whether this information was available and would report back to the Committee.

Members were asked to consider the costs provided to relocate the basket bracket arms from the old columns LC1 and LC3 in the High Street to the two columns that had been identified in the report as being usable by Essex County Councils Test House. Members considered the costs provided to relocate the basket brackets from LC1 and LC3 in the High Street as recommended in the report and **RESOLVED** to appoint the maintenance contractor responsible for the hanging baskets, Aspect Maintenance Limited, to transfer the baskets bracket arms from the old columns to the new black columns and to use the new columns at a total cost of £100.00 exc VAT.

E&OS/013/16 – TO NOTE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT DETAILING INCIDENTS AND ACTIONS COMPLETED

The Community Warden advised members that the pavements in Bumblebee Park had been vandalised twice in recent weeks and that the Council had to appoint a contractor to relay the paving at a total cost of £450.00 exc VAT. She added that the contractor charged for labour only and that the concrete used to set the pavements was kindly donated by local building material supplier Canvey Supply Ltd.

Councillors discussed the vandalism and the donation of materials to repair the paving and **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Clerk write a letter of thanks to Canvey Supply Limited for the donation of materials.

The Community Warden advised members that the sand at the base of the beach marker at the far left of the pool had eroded exposing the concrete base holding this marker in place. Cllr T. Belford advised that he would make enquiries about who is responsible for the beach markers and would report back to the Town Clerk.

The Community Warden advised that in addition to the reports completed for Canvey Lake and Concord Beach Tidal Pool, she will also be reporting incidents and actions at the Wildflower Meadow and the Seafront Gardens monthly and routinely in a Health and Safety Report for the Committee ongoing.

Members noted the Health and Safety Report detailing incidents and actions completed.

E&OS/014/16 – ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

Accounts **APPROVED** and cheques 202577 to 202603 inclusive were signed.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.05PM.

CHAIRMAN
12th September 2016