

**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 7TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Cllr J. Anderson (Chairman), Cllr D.Anderson, Cllr C. Letchford, Cllr B. Campagna

NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Cllr T Belford, Cllr J Blissett, Cllr P Greig and Cllr M Tucker

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs E Hunt – Deputy Clerk
13 members of the public

E&OS/013/15 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr N Harvey was not present due to illness. Cllr D Blackwell was absent.

E&OS/014/15 – TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr C Letchford declared an interest in item 13 on the agenda.

E&OS/015/15 – 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.

No members wished to speak.

E&OS/016/15 – TO CONFIRM AND SIGN AS A TRUE RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH JUNE 2015.

The minutes of the committee meeting held on the 15th June 2015 were **CONFIRMED** and signed as a true record.

E&OS/017/15 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ONGOING PROJECTS AND NOT ON THE AGENDA

Cllr J Anderson updated members on the progress of ongoing projects which were not on the agenda.

E&OS/018/15 – TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT RENTS AND WATER RATERS FOR 2016/17

Members were asked to review its allotment rents in order to assess its income and budget requirements. The Clerk confirmed that the review of tenants is conducted each year and starts from October to December for renewal in January.

Members **RESOLVED** that although the water charges have increased the overall income from the existing rent and water charges cover the expenditure costs, therefore, no increase is required at this time.

E&OS/019/15 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE LEASE FOR THE SEARONT GARDENS / BUMBLEBEE PARK

Cllr J Anderson provided members with background information about the creation and maintenance of the seafront gardens and Bumblebee Park prior to the Town Council taking over the management of them from Castle Point Borough Council under a three year Licence in 2012.

Members discussed the terms of the Lease and raised concerns over clause 31 Breach of Repair and Maintenance Obligations. Cllr J Anderson advised members that the Clerk was awaiting confirmation from Castle Point Borough Council on the valuation of the land for rental fees that could be applied to the 10 year Lease.

The Deputy Clerk advised members that the Acting Town Clerk had requested legal advice from Essex County Council Legal Services on the suitability of the content of the Lease. Members

raised concerns that the Lease appeared to be written for a habitable property rather than an open space and that they should await guidance from Essex County Council Legal Services before agreeing to the terms of the Lease.

Cllr J Anderson commented that the Town Council should consider a three year Lease rather than committing to a ten year Lease. Cllr Anderson also commented to members that the Council should be granted the gardens in perpetuity as the residents were already paying for the maintenance of these open spaces and in the Town Council having to pay an annual rental to Lease these gardens, it was not promoting best value for their residents. Cllr J Anderson requested that the Acting Town Clerk discuss the option of a three year Lease with Castle Point Borough Council and to also enquire whether Castle Point Borough Council would grant the Town Council these gardens in perpetuity.

Members **RECOMMENDED** that the item be deferred until further negotiations with Castle Point Borough Council had taken place and until Essex County Council Legal Services had provided the Town Council with their recommendations on the terms of the Lease.

E&OS/020/15 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE A REQUEST TO INSTALL SIGNAGE AT THE SEAFRONT GARDENS PROMOTING THE MAINTENANCE CARRIED OUT BY CANVEY ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL

Members discussed the request to install signage at the seafront gardens promoting the maintenance carried out by Canvey Island Town Council and **RECOMMENDED** that the item be deferred until a resolution has been made on the management of the seafront gardens and Bumblebee Park.

E&OS/021/15 – TO CONSIDER A COMPLAINT RELATING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SEAFRONT GARDENS AND BUMBLEBEE PARK

Members discussed the complaint received relating to the maintenance of the seafront gardens and Bumblebee park noting that the service level in the past quarter had been unsatisfactory. Cllr J Anderson advised members that the existing maintenance contract for these gardens was due to expire on the 1st October 2015 and that the new contract would be going out to tender this month, dependent upon the resolution on the maintenance of these gardens.

Cllr J Anderson advised members that the Deputy Clerk was in continued discussion with the maintenance contractor over the current level of service and made them aware of their obligations under the terms of their contract. The Deputy Clerk advised members that she had visited at the gardens in the morning and that the contractors were on site weeding the beds and cutting the grass.

Members discussed the maintenance provision for these gardens and **RECOMMENDED** that the existing contract be allowed to run until its conclusion and once a resolution has been made over the management of these gardens that the Committee should meet to discuss the tenders that have been returned to carry out the general maintenance of these gardens.

E&OS/022/15 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE A PROJECT FOR INCLUSION ON THE FOUR YEAR PLAN – TO INSTALL MEMORIAL BENCHES ALONG THE SEA WALL ADJACENT THE B17 BOMBER MEMORIAL PARK AT THE END OF BEVELAND ROAD

Cllr C Letchford asked members to consider and agree to the installation of benches along the sea wall adjacent the B17 Bomber Memorial Park at the end of Beveland Road. Cllr C Letchford explained that he had already secured funding for the benches and was asking that the Town Council to consider applying for permission from the Environment Agency at a cost of £50.00 to install these structures at this location. Cllr T Belford commented that this request differed from the project outlined for members to consider in this agenda and recommended that the item be put to Full Council together with more information of the project proposal for them to consider.

Members discussed the new proposal and **RECOMMENDED** that this item be deferred until more information was available and that it should be on the agenda at the next Full Council as an item to consider and agree.

E&OS/023/15 – TO REVIEW THE MAINTENANCE OF THE WILDFLOWER MEADOW AT TEWKES CREEK

Members discussed the current maintenance of the Wildflower Meadow at Tewkes Creek.

The Deputy Clerk advised members that following her meeting with the Environment and Conservation Forum on Monday 1st September 2015, where the maintenance provision of the meadow was discussed, she has arranged to meet with a representative from RSPB on site to discuss the current condition of the meadow and to receive recommendations on reviving the meadow and ongoing maintenance requirements.

Members **RECOMMENDED** that the item be deferred until recommendations had been received following the Deputy Clerk's meeting with the representative from RSPB.

E&OS/024/15 – TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE COST TO REPLACE THE THREE TREES AT TEWKES CREEK

Members discussed the costs provided by Castle Point Borough Council to replace the three trees that had died at Tewkes Creek and **RESOLVED** to purchase three Silver Birch (Betula Pendula) of approximately 8ft complete with support cages to be installed at end of October, beginning of November at a cost of £325.00 + VAT

E&OS/025/15 – TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF THE STEPS LEADING TO CONCORD BEACH TIDAL POOL

Members discussed the report on the condition of the steps leading to Concord Beach Tidal Pool and noted the Deputy Clerks report advising that the proud sharp edges had now been removed.

Members **RECOMMENDED** that the Deputy Clerk contact the Tidal Pool maintenance contractor to request that they carry out an inspection of the condition of the edges of these steps in order that they can provide a recommendation on their repair / removal.

E&OS/026/15 – TO NOTE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT DETAILING INCIDENTS AND ACTIONS COMPLETED

Members noted the health and safety report detailing incidents and actions.

E&OS/027/15 – TO NOTE THE FOUR YEAR PLAN AND PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Members noted the four year plan and the progression of projects.

E&OS/028/15 – ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

Accounts **APPROVED** and cheques 202271 to 202289 inclusive were signed.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.00 PM.

CHAIRMAN

16th November 2015