

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE MEETING OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE OF THE CANVEY ISLAND
TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE PADDOCKS, LONG ROAD, CANVEY ISLAND ON
MONDAY 15TH JUNE 2009 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors: J. Anderson (Chairman)
R. Bishop B. Dixie P. Greig R. Howard J. Liddiard
D. Anderson D. Blackwell

Also present: Three members of the public including one member of the press
Mrs E. De Can – Assistant to the Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr N Harvey and Cllr N Pontius were absent due to holiday commitments.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

A resident expressed his concerns regarding the weed growth on the seawall paths and requested to know who was responsible for clearing these weeds. Cllr. Blackwell and Cllr Howard responded to his queries.

AGREED for the Clerk to:

- Contact the Probation Service to establish whether they would clear the weeds and to ensure that the Environment Agency is happy for this to happen.
- Write to County Cllr Howard requesting this issue be raised at the next Environment meeting confirming that this had been raised at a Town Council committee meeting.

Mr Curd raised his concerns as per Appendix A regarding the pathways at the Smallgains allotment site. He advised that his allotment plot was in a bad state when he took it over which he has now rectified and that the pathways are very narrow. He informed the committee that the paths were laid in 1960 and are due for a complete overhaul. Mr Curd advised that he had raised this issue with the horticultural society who gave him permission to remove the path around his plot which he subsequently replaced with carpet. Mr Curd also raised concerns as some allotment holders are disabled and find it difficult to tend to their plots due to the narrow paths.

4. ALLOTMENTS

Following Mr Curd's concerns over the pathways at the Smallgains allotment site, members discussed Mr Curd's letter of complaint and Cllr Blackwell advised members that when the allotments were taken over from CPBC the Town Council were advised that the allotment site had passed an inspection and the paths were safe for use.

AGREED to a site visit on the 22nd June 2009 at 7.30pm for members to review the paths at the Smallgains allotment site.

A letter was supplied to members (Appendix B) by the Assistant to the Clerk from Essex County Council following an investigation into the condition of the bridleway alongside the Waterside allotment site.

AGREED to a site visit on the 22nd June 2009 following the visit to the Smallgains allotment site to review the bridle way access and parking requirements.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16TH MARCH 2009

Item 3. Public Forum

Cllr Bishop advised that the installation of traffic lights at the junction of Climmen Road and Central Wall Road was still being investigated by the Highways department.

Item 4. Allotments

The Assistant to the Clerk advised that she was not aware of whether Transco had been written to with regards to the access road and that an email had been located from Ian Burchill advising that the Farmhouse parking facilities could not be used.

AGREED for the Clerk to write to Transco to request its assistance in repairing the access road.

Item 14. Bumblebee Park

Cllr J Anderson advised that he had been in contact with Groundworks Essex regarding their watering plan for the Bumblebee Park and it would appear that the plan is an allocation of 1 day per month and the remainder is left to volunteers to water the gardens.

AGREED for the Clerk to write to CPBC and Groundworks Essex advising of the Council's concerns regarding the lack of watering, plants that have already died and the timeframe for the new structure. The Council would also like a breakdown of the costs for this project and how much funds remain.

6. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr Bishop provided a report of the Highways Locality Panel meeting held on the 10th June 2009. Members raised concerns that no action had been taken regarding the disabled parking bays that had been put forward in Lionel Road. Cllr J Anderson reported that the Highways department had put this decision on hold awaiting the town centre regeneration.

AGREED that Cllr Bishop would liaise with the Clerk in order to write to ECC requesting the addition of the disabled parking bays and requesting action on any other outstanding issues.

7. SKATEBOARD PARK/BUNGALOW

Cllr. Anderson reported that the launch anticipated for the 13th June 2009 had been postponed to coincide with the Castle Point Show on the 21st June 2009 and will start at 11.30am.

The Assistant to the Clerk enquired as to whether the Council would consider Legacy carrying out the cleaning of the bungalow.

AGREED that the Clerk establish the costs of cleaning from Legacy for discussion and agreement at the next committee meeting.

8. TEWKES CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

Members noted a report of a meeting held between Council representatives and the Environment Agency on 2nd June 2009 and a Proposal Document supplied by the Environment Agency following this meeting. Members were happy with the proposals and agreed the actions detailed on the report provided by the Assistant to the Clerk. Cllr Blackwell raised concerns that a bird hide was not being considered as the children's play centre had suggested an interest in this feature.

AGREED for the Clerk to;

- Write to the Environment Agency to request the addition of a bird hide and to ensure that before any planting is started that the areas be trimmed otherwise the plants may not flourish.
- Confirm to the Environment Agency that members have agreed to a recycled plastic crabbing pontoon to alleviate vandalism and that the Council would maintain the crabbing pontoon once erected.

9. DOG FOULING

An update was not possible as Cllr Harvey was on holiday and unable to attend the meeting. Concerns were raised regarding the problems that Southend Borough Council have had while trying to implement the new Dog Control Orders on the beaches of Southend seafront.

AGREED to:

- defer this report until the next Environment & Open Spaces meeting.
- The Clerk to obtain a report from Southend Borough Council following the council's cabinet meeting detailed in an Echo article on the 15th June.

10. ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION FORUM

Cllr Bishop provided an update from a meeting held on the 9th April 2009 and advised that the Wildlife Event will now take place on the 26th July 2009 and the Events & Publicity Officer is awaiting confirmation from CPBC that the venue is available for this date.

AGREED to;

- Send a letter to CPBC Chief Executive to chase the delay of confirmation of the venue site.
- The working group for this event is the Environment & Conservation Form with Cllr Bishop as the main contact for the Events & Publicity Officer.

11. CANVEY LAKE

Councillors were very frustrated that the transfer of responsibility for the Lake's management had not yet been resolved with the Borough Council. A meeting had taken place on the 30th March 2009 with Town Council representatives, David Marchant (Chief Executive Officer, CPBC), Ian Burchill (Director of Environment, CPBC) and Peter Burch, CPBC Cabinet Member for Leisure and Open Spaces. Cllr Anderson confirmed that a legal document had been drawn up and is with CPBC legal department, however, they are awaiting confirmation from the Leader of the Borough Council, Pam Challis to confirm who will be on the management committee.

AGREED to;

- The Clerk writing to the Leader of the CPBC expressing the Town Council's disappointment in the delay of this process and requesting an urgent decision on the management committee.
- Cllr Howard to chase the Leader of the CPBC to establish an urgent decision.

12. SEAFRONT GARDENS

Members were advised that a contract had been agreed with Pinnacle for the maintenance of the gardens. A watering plan was now in place and CPBC have given Pinnacle access to the maintenance hut within the new toilet block to gain access to the water. Various residents have expressed concerns that their tree's have been taken and not replaced.

AGREED for the Clerk to;

- Write to CPBC requesting that the benches are maintained and refurbished.
- Write to Pinnacle to thank them for their work and confirm that the Council are happy with the planting.

- To obtain quotes for new tree's and plaques to replace for residents.
- To obtain quotes for town council plaques confirming that the gardens have been supplied and maintained by CITC.
- To obtain quotes for a tree and plaque to commemorate Cllr Christine Andrews with consultation from her husband.

13. SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

Cllr. Blackwell provided an update following a meeting he attended on the 5th June 2009. He advised that there were discussions regarding business recycling, however, no plans are in place for this to happen.

RECOMMENDED that Cllr Blackwell would be the representative for the Town Council at future meetings.

14. TOWN CENTRE

Members discussed Phase 2 of the town centre enhancement project to continue to replace further lamp posts in the town centre and the addition of six more planters.

AGREED that ;

- Cllr Bishop would advise the Clerk which lamp posts require updating.
- Locations to be considered for new planters before costs can be agreed.

15. THORNEY BAY

Cllr Bishop reported to members that even though the Town Council were considering taking over the maintenance of the reed beds at Thorney Bay Park and the owner of the park has agreed for the Town Council to maintain the reed bed and the fences, he will not agree to a lease for the Council.

AGREED that the Clerk advise the Council of the legality of this proposal.

16. PROBATION SERVICE

The Assistant to the Clerk advised members that the probation service were no longer permitted to paint the railings in the town centre on the road side as they are not covered by Health & Safety regulations. It was also reported that ECC are currently tidying up the town centre and have agreed to continue to paint the remaining railings and bollards. It was requested that further projects were required for the probation service.

AGREED that the Clerk review the following projects with the probation service to;

- Tidy up of Canvey lake
- Clearing weeds in the Town Centre
- Clearing weeds along the seawall
- Cleaning up the Tewkes Creek area
- Tidying up benches at Canvey Heights

All members were asked to advise the Clerk of any additional projects they may want added.

17. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

The Assistant to the Clerk advised that following the presentation from Adam Jenkins on the 16th March 2009, he has requested a follow up meeting to discuss this partnership further and agree a way forward.

AGREED that the Clerk arrange a meeting with Adam Jenkins, the Clerk or Assistant, Cllr J Anderson, Cllr Blackwell and Cllr D Anderson.

18. FOUR YEAR PLAN

Councillors noted the committee's four year plan.

*The Council **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960, the public and press would be excluded from the remainder of this meeting because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

19. HANGING BASKETS

The Assistant to the Clerk advised that two quotes had been obtained for the watering of the hanging baskets and as suggested one of these was from Mr B.Cox. Cllr Blackwell raised concerns that supplementary feed was required when watering the baskets and recommended that small plaques be erected on each lamp post to advise that they have been purchased and maintained by CITC. It was suggested the Tipper Signs in Benfleet be approached.

RECOMMENDED that;

- The contract for watering the hanging baskets be awarded to Mr B. Cox at a cost of £22 per water.

AGREED that:

- Cllr Blackwell will discuss supplementary feed with Mr Cox.
- The Clerk obtain quotes for 10 small plaques to be installed onto each lamp post advising that the baskets have been installed and maintained by CITC.

It was also reported that an invoice had been received from Stuart Kingston and even though an annual cost of £532.60 had previously been agreed, Mr Kingston was charging an extra cost of £191.60 for collecting the baskets from Thames Ambulance, obtaining bracket clips and installing the hanging baskets which was not on his original quote.

AGREED to the extra cost of £191.60 due to the additional work carried out by Mr Kingston under Clerk's delegated authority.

20. CREEKY WOOD SIGN

A draft design was provided to each member to agree the artwork for the new sign of Creeky Woods supplied by Design 4 Print.

RECOMMENDED that the artwork supplied by Design 4 Print be accepted.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE