

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Spelthorne Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames on Thursday 17 July 2014 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillors:

Ayers F.	Friday A.E.	Saliagopoulos D.
Beardsmore I.J.	Gething N.	Sexton J.
Bushnell M.	Harman A.C.	Sider R.W.
Davis C.A.	Harvey I.T.E.	Smith-Ainsley R.A.
Dunn R.D.	Mitchell A.J.	Spoor B.
Forbes-Forsyth P. (Deputy Leader)	Patel D.	Taylor S.D.
Forsbrey G.E.	Rough M.W.	Watts R.L. (Leader)
Francis M.P.		Webb S. (Mayor)
Frazer C.M.		

Mr. Murray Litvak, Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee was also in attendance.

Councillor Suzy P. Webb, The Mayor, in the Chair

The Mayor, Councillor Webb, welcomed all guests to the meeting, the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Kevin Hurley, the Assistant Chief Constable, Stuart Cundy and the Temporary Chief Superintendent, John Boshier of Surrey Police and the Team Spelthorne Tennis Team and Boccia Team and their coaches.

189/14 Presentation to Team Spelthorne

The Mayor congratulated members of the Team Spelthorne's Tennis Team and Boccia Team for winning the Surrey County Playing Fields Fair Play Award at the 18th Annual Procter and Gamble Surrey Youth Games. She complemented the teams and their coaches on their enthusiasm, courteousness and achievement and presented them with a trophy.

190/14 Presentation by Surrey Police

The Assistant Chief Constable, Stuart Cundy, and the Temporary Chief Superintendent, John Boshier, addressed the Council on the work of Surrey Police and their priority areas for the forthcoming years.

191/14 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors C.A. Bannister, P.A. Broom, S.E.W. Budd, S.A. Dunn, T.J.M. Evans, D. Gohil, D.L. Grant, V.J. Leighton, M. Madams, A.C. Patterson, J.M. Pinkerton, C.A. Spencer, and Miss Sue Faulkner, Vice-Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee.

192/14 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20 May 2014 were approved as a correct record.

193/14 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

194/14 Announcements from the Mayor

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Robin Sider for being awarded the British Empire Medal for duties to the Shepperton Community.

The Mayor congratulated all those who helped with the third successful Staines-upon-Thames Day on 29 June 2014. She commended the work of the Chairman Councillor Colin Davis for all of his efforts in championing the event.

The Mayor drew attention to the success of the Armed Forces Day flag raising ceremony held on 23 Jun 2014.

The Mayor announced two upcoming events to commemorate the centenary of the First World War 1914-1918. An event will be held on Saturday 2 August from 11.00am to 1.00pm which will include a performance by the Kew Wind Orchestra and an Act of Dedication led by the Vicar of Staines, at the War Memorial, Old Town Hall, Staines-upon-Thames. In addition, a Council-arranged event will be held on Monday 4 August at 10.30am outside the Council offices at Knowle Green involving a flag-raising ceremony and a parade comprising representatives from the Borough's Sea and Air Cadets and representatives of the Scouts and Guides.

The Mayor announced that the Council was privileged to be granted a royal visit by the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester on 8 July 2014. The Mayor was honoured that they recognised the collaborative efforts of the Council staff and all the organisations involved in the flood relief effort.

195/14 Announcements from the Leader

The Leader echoed the comments made by the Mayor regarding the recent Royal visit of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and how Spelthorne Council was honoured by their presence.

The Leader took the opportunity to congratulate Councillor Robin Sider on being awarded the British Empire Medal for extensive services over many years to the wider Spelthorne community.

The Leader announced the progress the Council had made on Treasury Management for the financial year 2013-14. The Council's Treasury Management advisors confirmed that the Council had achieved an annualised return of over 6% on its investments which was more than double the next best performing Council whilst maintaining a similar risk profile to other Councils. He stated that the majority of Councils achieved a return of less than 1%. The Leader commended the Assistant Chief Executive, Terry Collier, and his accountancy team for all their efforts.

196/14 Announcements from the Chief Executive

There were none.

197/14 Questions from members of the public

The Mayor reported that under Standing Order 13, one question had been received from a member of the public, Mr P. Ross.

Question from Mr P. Ross:

“The Council has cancelled the Armed Forces parade for the last three years. Why?”

The first Armed Forces parade was held during the time Councillor Robin Sider BEM was Mayor, and it was stated that it should be a regular thing at the end of Armed Forces week.

When Councillor Isobel Napper was Mayor she promised that it would be a regular thing. This was said to me over the phone and face to face. When she passed away the new Mayor agreed to the parade and it did not happen. Again why?

I would have thought that supporting our Armed Forces this year was more important than ever, with the 70th Anniversary of D-Day and the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War 1, and the return of our Armed Forces personnel from Afghanistan.

I have spoken to two Councillors who have promised to get it sorted and I am still waiting for a reply.

All the Council seems to be interested in is Staines-upon-Thames day, which is, if I remember correctly, is the 20th May not June. Why put it in June instead of May?

The Council signed the military covenant promising to support the military past, present and future. Seems they have reneged on that already. It seems funny that Surrey County Council have a list of events going on to support Armed Forces Day on the 28th - 29th June and Spelthorne Council does nothing. They cannot even get the Flag raising time correct on the 23rd June, it is 10am not 10.30am to start Armed Force Week.”

Response by the Leader, Councillor Robert Watts:

“Thank you for your question Mr. Ross. There was a successful march down Staines-upon-Thames high-street for Armed Forces Day. This took place during Councillor Sider’s Mayoral year. However, there was never a promise that the march would become a permanent fixture.

I would like to assure you that this Council is fully committed to supporting our Armed Forces. The recent signing of the Community Covenant in April this year is a clear example of this. The declaration made by the Council and the public, business, charitable and voluntary sectors encourages support for the Armed Forces Community who are working and residing in the Borough. We certainly do recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This

includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel, and their families in the Borough.

The Community Covenant working group, which was set up after the signing of the Covenant, has already considered the issue of an Armed Forces Day Parade and it is hoped that the group will address this for future years.

The Council recognises that this year is important, especially as it is the centenary of the start of World War 1. To commemorate the start of World War 1, there will be a tribute hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Suzy P. Webb, on Saturday 2 August from 11.00am until 1.00pm. This event will include a performance by the Kew Wind Orchestra and an Act of Dedication led by the Vicar of Staines, at the War Memorial, Old Town Hall, Staines-upon-Thames.

In addition there will be a Council-arranged event on Monday 4 August at 10.30am to commemorate the start of World War 1, led by the Mayor which will involve a flag-raising ceremony and a parade comprising representatives from the Borough's Sea, Army and Air Cadets and representatives of the Scouts and Guides.

With regard to your question about Staines-upon-Thames Day, the event is no longer Council-led. Two years ago, the Council handed over the running of Staines-upon-Thames day to the Spelthorne business community and now it is a successful, externally organised event attracting many Spelthorne residents.

With regard to your final question, the flag raising ceremony for Armed Forces week took place at 10.30am on 23 June 2014. We have never been asked by the Royal British Legion to hold it at a different time. If they give further guidance on start times, we would be happy to comply with their wishes.”

198/14 Recommendations of the Cabinet

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on a replacement payment system for the Elmsleigh surface and multi-storey car parks.

Resolved that the capital funding of an additional £40,000, to allow installation of a payment replacement system for Elmsleigh surface and multi-storey car parks, be approved.

199/14 Recommendation of the Licensing Committee

The Council considered the recommendation of the Licensing Committee on a revision to the scheme of delegations in respect to functions under the Licensing Act 2003.

Resolved that the proposal to delegate the Assistant Chief Executive to undertake the function of Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, be approved.

200/14 Reports from the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Robert Watts, presented the reports of the Cabinet meetings held on 24 June 2014 and 15 July 2014, which outlined the various matters the Cabinet had decided since the last Council meeting.

201/14 Report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee

In the absence of the Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor Mary Madams, the Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor Tony Harman, presented the report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

202/14 Report from the Chairman of the Licensing Committee

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Robin Sider, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

203/14 Report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

In the absence of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Philippa Broom, Councillor Alfred Friday presented the report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

204/14 Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

The Chairman also expressed thanks on behalf of the Council to Paul Underwood, the Assistant Head of Planning who had recently retired after working at the Council for 38 years.

205/14 Motions

There were none.

206/14 Questions on Ward Issues

There were none.

207/14 General Questions

The Mayor announced that the Council had received three General questions from Councillors Robin Sider, Ian Beardsmore, and Richard Dunn and in accordance with Standing Order 15.3 (c) of the Constitution; the Mayor directed that the questions and answers would be given in writing at the meeting without being read aloud.

Under Standing Order 14, Councillor Robin Sider, asked the following general question:

“Will the Leader join me in congratulating the Chairman and organising committee of the recent Staines-upon-Thames Day on their planning and execution of this community event, and will he acknowledge its success, and agree that it should become a permanent feature in the Borough calendar?”

Response by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Robert Watts:

Thank you for your question, Councillor Sider.

I would like to thank Councillor Davis and his Committee for organising a very successful Staines-upon-Thames day. This is the third year in which the event has been run and I have no doubt that all those involved would want it to continue for many years to come.

Under Standing Order 14, Councillor Ian Beardsmore, asked the following general question:

“In 2013 how many meetings were there between Spelthorne Council, officers and/or members and Kempton Park and/or its agents? What were the dates?”

So far this year how many meetings were there between Spelthorne Council, officers and/or members and Kempton Park and/or its agents? What were the dates?”

Answer from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Robert Watts:

“Thank you for your questions, Councillor Beardsmore.

Herewith are the dates of meetings which took place in 2013 and 2014 between Officers, Councillors, Kempton Park’s project management company, Aspire, and Highways’ consultants Mouchel. It must be noted that we only have details of meetings at which Officers were present.

2013

24 January - Kempton Park Working Party
6 February - Kempton Park high level meeting
19 February - Meeting with David Locke Associates (DLA)
27 March - Update meeting
10 April - Kempton Park high level meeting
17 April - Update meeting
8 May - Introduction to consultants’ team
26 June - Kempton Park high level meeting
17 July - Kempton Park steering group meeting
13 August - Kempton Park meeting
11 September - Update meeting
12 September - Kempton Park high level meeting
9 December - Update meeting

2014

28 January - Update meeting
20 February - Kempton Park high level meeting”

Under Standing Order 14.2, Councillor Ian Beardsmore asked the following supplementary question:

“In that we are repeatedly told that at Kempton Park there is no planning application and nothing to discuss, why has it taken 5 high-level meetings and 10 other meetings to discuss nothing?”

Under Standing Order 15.2, a written answer was provided to Councillor Ian Beardsmore:

“Kempton Park is a large employer and landowner within the borough. It is prudent for the Council to meet with such organisations generally and when they are considering any development within the administrative area. Pre-planning application discussions are actively encouraged with all such organisations as it allows the Council to identify issues early enough for these to be taken into account in any formal planning application. Pre-planning advice is a way for developers to ‘test the waters’ as regards particular types of developments in particular areas. This is an opportunity for developers to receive advice as to what issues are likely to arise prior to drawing up formal plans for approval, thereby saving time and money themselves, but also time and costs to the council by lowering the issues that a formal application might raise.

Discussions have taken place on the above basis, but such meetings have also included the Steering Group with Liberal Democrat Representation, other Councillors, local residents groups and other interested parties, to ensure that all opinions can be placed on the table for Kempton Park to consider in any application which may or may not come forward.”

Under Standing Order 14, Councillor Richard Dunn, asked the following general question:

“As we are all aware, the Environment Agency is expecting Councils affected by flooding to contribute to the flood relief scheme. Does Spelthorne intend to set aside funds for this?”

Response from Councillor Tony Mitchell:

“Thank you for your question, Councillor Dunn.

The Council is participating in the development of the River Thames Scheme to reduce flooding along the Thames. The Environment Agency is working in partnership with the relevant local authorities from Maidenhead to Teddington. The River Thames scheme has many developmental elements including a funding strategy. Currently under the Government’s formula for providing funds for flood relief schemes there is a significant gap between the amount provided from central Government and the cost of the scheme. Leaders of Councils in Surrey, Richmond, Kingston and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead have met to discuss funding of the scheme. They consider that given the importance of the economy in the area this is not sufficiently recognised in the current model used for assessing funding contributions. The seven local authorities involved are now working together to draw up a revised funding proposal that takes into account the full economic impact of flooding in the area and to develop a business case. Until this is complete Spelthorne BC will not be able to assess how and if it will contribute to the scheme. We understand the Environment Agency is seeking to obtain approval of the business case and funding by 2016.”

208/14 Urgent Business

There were no urgent items.