

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Spelthorne Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames on Thursday 24 October 2013 at 7.30pm

Present:

Ayers F.	Forbes-Forsyth P. (Deputy Leader)	Mitchell A.J.
Ayub A.	Forsbrey G.E.	Patel D.
Bannister C.A.	Francis M.P.	Patterson A.C.
Beardsmore I.J.	Frazer C.M.	Pinkerton J.M.
Broom P.A.	Friday A.E.	Rough M.W.
Budd S.E.W.	Gething N.	Sexton J.
Bushnell M.	Gohil D.	Smith-Ainsley R.A.
Davis C.A.	Grant D.L.	Taylor S.D.
Dunn R.D.	Harvey I.T.E.	Watts R.L. (Leader)
Dunn S.A.	Leighton V.J.	Webb S.
Evans T.J.M.		

Mr Murray Litvak, Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee and Miss Sue Faulkner, Vice-Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct were also in attendance.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A.C. Harman, was in the Chair.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to stand in silence for a minute in memory of the late Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Isobel Napper.

281/13 Tributes to the late Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Isobel Napper

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Watts, led the tributes to Councillor Napper followed by Councillors Forbes-Forsyth, Davis, Webb, Ayers, Beardsmore and Ayub.

Following the tributes, the Chief Executive, Roberto Tambini, presented Mr. Tom Napper with the Book of Condolence on behalf of the Council. Councillor Watts then presented Mr. Napper with three cheques of £1,000 each for the charities which Councillor Napper had supported during her time in office as Mayor.

Mr. Napper then addressed the Council and paid tribute to his late wife's personality and the selfless work she had done as a councillor and latterly as Mayor.

282/13 Election of the Mayor

It was moved by Councillor Broom and seconded by Councillor Leighton and

RESOLVED that Councillor Tony Harman be appointed Mayor for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2013-14.

Councillor Harman made the Declaration of Office as Mayor of the Borough of Spelthorne and thanked the Council for electing him as Mayor.

He then presented the former Mayor's consort, Mr. Napper, with the past Mayor's Badge of Office and a scrapbook commemorating Councillor Napper's time as Mayor.

283/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dale, Madams, Spencer, Sider, Spoor and Strong.

284/13 Minutes

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 July 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

285/13 Election of the Deputy Mayor

It was moved by Councillor Friday and seconded by Councillor Evans and

RESOLVED that Councillor Suzy Webb be appointed Deputy Mayor for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2013-14.

Councillor Webb made the Declaration of Office as Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Spelthorne and thanked the Council for electing her as Deputy Mayor, adding that she would give her support to the new Mayor and Deputy Mayoress for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Councillor Webb also said that she would not have a consort for the remainder of this Municipal Year.

286/13 Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

287/13 Announcements from the Mayor

The Mayor announced that his Civic Service would take place on Sunday 24 November at St. Peter's Church, Staines-upon-Thames at 3pm.

Mayor's Events

The Mayor informed Councillors about upcoming Mayoral events:

- The charity race night on 25 January 2014 at St. Peter's Church Hall, Staines-upon-Thames.
- The charity boxing match on 22 February 2014 at Spelthorne Leisure Centre.

- The Weybridge Male Voice Choir will give a concert on 8 March 2014 in St. Peter's Church, Staines-upon-Thames.

288/13 Announcements from the Leader

The Leader made the following announcements:

A Cabinet reshuffle:

- Councillor Patel to join the Cabinet as a replacement for Councillor Webb.
- Councillor Patel will have parking services and ICT as the main parts of her portfolio, taking ICT from Councillor Sexton.
- Councillor Pinkerton will take on Housing.
- Councillor Leighton will take on Planning.
- The Leader will take on Human Resources.

The Leader thanked Councillor Webb for all her work as portfolio holder for Planning and Housing.

The Council recently received the following awards at this year's South East in Bloom competition:

- Sunbury Walled Garden – Gold award and overall winner in the Small Park category
- Staines Cemetery – Silver Gilt award in the Small Cemetery category
- Sunbury Cemetery – Silver Gilt award and overall winner in the Small Cemetery category
- Ash Link Nature Reserve – Silver Gilt award in the Conservation Area category
- Shepperton High Street – Silver Gilt award in the Town Centre category.

289/13 Announcements from the Chief Executive

There were none.

290/13 Questions from members of the public

There were none.

291/13 Recommendation of the Cabinet

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on the Search Moves Common Housing Allocations Policy.

RESOLVED to approve:

- (1) The proposed policy so the IT provider can be instructed to build the system to facilitate implementation of the new allocation policy.
- (2) That the Portfolio Holder be given authority to approve any minor amendments to the policy due to the changing nature of legislation/case law and the changing needs of the community.

292/13 Report from the Leader of the Council

The Leader presented his report on the work of the Cabinet at its meetings held on 9 September 2013 and 24 September 2013.

293/13 Report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee

The Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor Dipak Gohil, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

294/13 Report from the Chairman of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Broom, presented her report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

295/13 Report from the Chairman of the Licensing Committee

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, a member of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Ian Harvey, presented the report of the Chairman, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

296/13 Report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Philippa Broom, presented her report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

297/13 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.

298/13 Motions

The Mayor reported that under Standing Order 17, the Council had received Notice of two Motions.

Councillor Frazer proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded the first motion:

“This Council opposes the closure of fire stations in Sunbury-on-Thames and Staines-upon-Thames. In the event that Surrey County Council proceeds with the closures, this Council insists that, at any new station, there will be at least two fully-manned and fully operational fire appliances on a 24-hour basis”.

The Motion was discussed, put to the vote, and carried unanimously.

Councillor Friday proposed and Councillor Evans seconded the second motion:

“Whilst recognising the futility of preserving uneconomic businesses, this Council notes with concern the number of public houses closing within the Borough and the consequent loss to the community of a valuable amenity. It will seek, wherever practical, to promote the operation of local public houses through rigorous application of its own planning policies and will support any proposal for the Secretary of State to require community consultation before approval is given for conversion”.

The Motion was discussed, put to the vote, and carried.

299/13 Questions on Ward Issues

There were no questions on ward issues.

300/13 General Questions

There were no General questions.

301/13 Urgent Business

There were no urgent items.