

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Spelthorne Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames on Thursday 25 July 2013 at 7.30pm

Present:

Ayers F.	Dunn S.A.	Leighton V.J.
Ayub A.	Forbes-Forsyth P. (<i>Deputy Leader</i>)	Madams M.
Bannister C.A.	Forsbrey G.E.	Patel D.
Beardsmore I.J.	Frazer C.M.	Pinkerton J.M.
Broom P.A.	Friday A.E.	Sexton J.
Budd S.E.W.	Gething N.	Sider R.W.
Bushnell M.	Gohil D.	Smith-Ainsley R.A.
Dale J.A.	Harman A.C.	Spoor B.
Davis C.A.	Harvey I.T.E.	Strong C.V.
Dunn R.D.		Taylor S.D.

Mr Murray Litvak, Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee.

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

The Deputy Mayor welcomed his guests to the meeting: the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Kevin Hurley; the Team Spelthorne boys' basketball team and coaches; Debbie Hazell, SLM manager; Honor Wright B.E.M and Paul Woodham B.E.M.

190/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor, Councillor I. Napper, the Leader, Councillor R.L. Watts, Councillors T.J.M Evans, D.L. Grant, A.J. Mitchell, A.C. Patterson, M.W. Rough, C.L. Spencer, S. Webb and Miss Sue Faulkner, Vice-Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee.

191/13 Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 23 May 2013 were approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion at Minute 139/13B, of the following words, "Councillor Spencer, in proposing Councillor Grant, recognised the service she had given to the South West Middlesex Crematorium Board over 19 years and as Chairman for 7 years."

192/13 Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

193/13 Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner

Kevin Hurley, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey addressed the Council on his role which includes: overseeing the work of Surrey Police, holding the Chief Constable to account and helping to tackle the crime issues

that matter to the public. Mr Hurley spoke about Surrey Police's six main priorities, as identified by the public, which are to:

- Take a zero-tolerance approach to policing in Surrey
- Deliver more visible street policing
- Put victims at the centre of the criminal justice system
- Give the public more opportunities to have their say about policing
- Protect local policing, standing up for officers and
- Promoting the highest standards of service

194/13 Announcements from the Mayor

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tony Harman read announcements on her behalf.

The Mayor attended the 17th P&G Surrey Youth Games last month at which Team Spelthorne finished an impressive second place overall. She sent her warmest congratulations to the students who took part and thanked the officers who helped the successful young people.

The Deputy Mayor congratulated the boys' basketball team and their coaches on their gold medal victory at the Surrey Youth Games and presented each of them with a certificate.

The Deputy Mayor announced that Debbie Hazell, the general manager at Sunbury Leisure Centre, had been awarded SLM's 'Manager of the Year Award' out of 76 nominations. He presented her with a trophy and the Council congratulated her on her achievement.

The Deputy Mayor continued to read the Mayor's Announcements:

The Mayor acknowledged that three people from Staines were recognised in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours': Councillor Jean Pinkerton who was awarded an OBE for services to Education; Mr Paul Woodham, for his voluntary services to deaf blind people through the Sense Holiday Programme and Honor Wright for her services to end-of-life care in her capacity as a Marie Curie Nurse and Ambassador, both of whom were awarded the British Empire Medal.

The Deputy Mayor presented Paul Woodham and Honor Wright with a token in recognition of their achievement and the Council joined in congratulating both of them on behalf of the people of Spelthorne.

The Deputy Mayor finished reading the Mayor's Announcements:

She had been present at the official opening of Walton Bridge along with the Leader and other councillors. Photographs of both herself and the Mayor of Elmbridge in ceremonial dress were placed in a Time Capsule that was buried on the site. She wished to send this Council's congratulations to Surrey County Council for securing Government funding for the Bridge.

She informed the Council that the recent Staines-upon-Thames Day had been very successful and thanked the volunteers and officers for their help and in particular Councillor Penny Forbes-Forsyth who organised the event.

Mayor's Events

The Deputy Mayor informed Councillors about upcoming Mayoral events:

- The Mayor's Charity Golf Day to be held at the Ashford Manor Golf Club on Monday 16 September.
- The Mayor's Civic Reception for the Business Sector taking place on Tuesday 29 October, at the Ashford Manor Golf Club.
- The Charity Ball is booked for 22 March 2014 at the Orangery, Shepperton Studios.

195/13 Announcements from the Leader

In the absence of the Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, Councillor Penny Forbes-Forsyth made the following announcements.

She mentioned the success of Surrey Youth Games which led to many young people going on to participate in sport after the event. As well as giving young people access to free coaching in preparation for the Games, the Council had obtained a grant to provide free squash lessons and cardio tennis. She also announced the launch of a Walking for Health scheme with guide leaflets available from the Council offices.

She encouraged councillors to attend the annual Youth Achievement Awards which celebrate the successes and achievements of young people in the Borough in future years.

She thanked schools and Natalie Taylor from Innervate for their support and work in running the successful Careers Fair at Strode's College on 16 July. The event was attended by 700 Year 9 and 10 pupils from all the Spelthorne schools and Magna Carta School in Runnymede.

She announced the opening of the Wellbeing Centre at the Greeno Day Centre in Shepperton, which would provide support and help for carers, families and individuals with early onset of dementia. She congratulated those involved in the project which was delivered on time and to budget.

She stated that the Council was providing play scheme vouchers to give low income families access to activities for their children during the summer.

Finally, she announced that the Walled Garden in Sunbury had won the prestigious Green Flag Award for the third year running. She encouraged all to visit the Walled Garden to see for themselves the hard work which had resulted in this award being won three years in a row.

She took the opportunity to thank all the staff for their tireless commitment in working with the Cabinet which had led to these achievements and wished them a well-deserved summer break.

196/13 Announcements from the Chief Executive

There were none.

197/13 Questions from members of the public

There were none.

198/13 Recommendation of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee

The Council considered the recommendation of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee on revisions to the Member and Staff Codes of Conduct.

RESOLVED to approve:

- a) the revised Member Code of Conduct
- b) the revised Staff Code of Conduct (subject to an amendment to import paragraph 9 of the Member Code into the Staff Code)
- c) the Policy on Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship;
- d) the Conflicts of Interest Policy
- e) that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make consequential amendments to Standing Orders and the constitution.

The Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee, Mr Murray Litvak, expressed his thanks to the members of the Committee and in particular Michael Graham, the Head of Corporate Governance, for his wise counsel at all their meetings.

199/13 Report from the Leader of the Council

In the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader, Councillor Penny Forbes-Forsyth, presented the report of the Leader on the work of the Cabinet at its meetings held on 25 June 2013 and 16 July 2013.

Councillor Penny Forbes-Forsyth responded to questions from Councillor Frank Ayers on fly-tipping, Christmas Lights and the playing Pitch Strategy. Councillor Colin Davis responded to a question from Councillor Ian Beardsmore on Christmas Lights. A question was raised by Councillor Colin Strong for which an answer was promised to be circulated by the Deputy Leader.

200/13 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.

The Chairman also expressed his thanks to the Audit Team for their work over the last two years since he had been Chairman.

201/13 Report from the Chairman of the Licensing Committee

The Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Judy Dale, presented the report of the Chairman, which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

202/13 Report from the Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee

The Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee, Murray Litvak, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

203/13 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.

204/13 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.

205/13 Motions

The Deputy Mayor reported that under Standing Order 16.3, the Council had received Notice of two Motions.

Councillor Robin Sider proposed and Councillor Alfred Friday seconded the first motion:

"That this Council records and congratulates Councillor Jean Pinkerton on her award of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in HM The Queen's Birthday honours list of 2013."

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

Councillor Ian Beardsmore proposed and Councillor Sandra Dunn seconded the second motion:

"This Council continues to oppose housing and all other inappropriate development in the Green Belt."

The Motion was debated and Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley proposed and Councillor Vivienne Leighton seconded the following amendment to the Motion, with the addition of the words in italics:

"This Council continues to oppose housing and all other inappropriate development in the Green Belt *unless*

For housing

- a) *The housing is not considered to be inappropriate development according to the NPPF or other emerging Government guidance.*
- b) *It is inappropriate development but 'very special circumstances' can be demonstrated by the applicant.*

For other inappropriate development

- a) *'very special circumstances' can be demonstrated by the applicant."*

The amendment to the Motion was debated, put to the vote, and carried.

The substantive Motion was then debated.

Under Standing Order 21.4 Councillor Chris Frazer requested a recorded vote.

FOR	All members present voted in favour of the substantive motion.
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The substantive Motion was carried unanimously.

206/13 Questions on Ward Issues

There were no questions received on ward issues.

207/13 General questions

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

"Will the Council join me in congratulating the Council's Leisure Team in the organisation of this year's Spelthorne Youth Awards which were an outstanding success and attended by so many members of the public supporting respective nominees receiving awards, and furthermore congratulate members of the Youth Council who presented and compered the evening with total confidence and enthusiasm?"

Response by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Penny Forbes-Forsyth:

"Councillor Sider, on behalf of the young people and the Leisure Team, I would like to thank you for your kind words. The event was attended by over 300 people and saw over 40 young people from Spelthorne recognised for their achievements in a number of categories including Triumph over Adversity and Unselfishness, Kindness & Bravery.

Brilliantly hosted by young people, this year's event also incorporated the achievements of Team Spelthorne in the Surrey Youth Games in which the borough finished 2nd overall. Our Bronze, Silver and Gold medal winners were introduced and officially collected the trophies at the Youth Awards.

The Leisure Team worked hard to find a way to merge the two events and provide a night to remember for all of those being recognised. I am delighted to say, they did just that!"

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

"Does Spelthorne Council still support Heathrow's expansion for runways 3 and/or 4 now that our MP, who was one of the main architects of this proposal, has had second thoughts and is now opposed to the scheme?"

Response by the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley:

"Spelthorne Council acknowledges the three proposals for a third runway which were put forward by Heathrow on Wednesday 17 July and is studying the proposals carefully before giving an informed view. Whilst the Council supports Heathrow as the UK hub airport and continues to recognise the substantial economic benefits provided by the airport, it also recognises the significant uncertainty and worry this will cause residents, particularly those living in Stanwell Moor.

The Council will work closely with Heathrow in the coming months to gain a full understanding of the potential implications of each of the three options and in particular, the South West (Stanwell Moor) option.

A briefing will also take place in due course to enable the Borough councillors to consider the implications of the proposals before coming to a longer-term view on Heathrow.

It is ridiculous to describe our MP as a main architect of Heathrow's expansion. We will be obtaining his views on the current proposal as well as listening to other individuals' and organisations' views from across the Borough.

The Council very much hopes the debate regarding the appropriateness of Stanwell Moor for expansion does not go on indefinitely as this could potentially blight the lives of our residents in Stanwell Moor.

The Airports Commission is due to deliver an interim report in December 2013 which will set out the options to be taken forward for further consideration. It is then expected that the Government will make a final decision in the summer 2015."

Under Standing Order 14.2, Councillor Richard Dunn asked the following supplementary question:

"Has anyone actually spoken to the MP recently to gauge his views on Heathrow expansion as the media has stated that he wanted to put a runway 4 straight through Stanwell?"

Response by the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Richard Smith-Ainsley:

“Comments in the press about what our MP may have said may well be different in different newspapers. As far as we are concerned, as a Borough Council, we will deal with what we can affect. The MP deals with his own responsibilities and I cannot accurately comment on what he said because I do not know accurately what he did say. What I suggest is that Councillor Dunn speaks to our MP to clarify what he said and what his views are and whether they have been misinterpreted or not.”

208/13 Urgent Business

There were no urgent items.