

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting of Spelthorne Borough
Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green,
Staines-upon-Thames on Thursday 24 January 2013**

Present:

Councillors:

Beardsmore I.J.	Friday A.E.	Pinkerton Mrs J.M. (Deputy Leader)
Dale Mrs J.A.	Gething N.	Rough Mrs M.W.
Davis C.A.	Gohil D.	Sexton Miss J.
Dunn R.D.	Harman A.C.	Sider R.W. (Mayor)
Dunn Mrs S.A.	Leighton Mrs V.J.	Smith-Ainsley R.A.
Evans T.M.	Madams Mrs M.	Spoor B.
Forbes-Forsyth P.C.	Napper Mrs I. (Deputy Mayor)	Taylor S.D.
Francis M.P.	Patel Ms D.	Watts R.L.
Frazer C.M.		Webb Mrs S.

Councillor R.W. Sider, the Mayor, in the Chair

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F. Ayers, A. Ayub. Mrs C.A. Bannister, Philippa Broom, S.E.W. Budd, Mrs M. Bushnell, G.E. Forsbrey, Mrs D.L. Grant, A.J. Mitchell, Mrs C.E. Nichols, A.C. Patterson and C.V. Strong. Mr Murray Litvak, the Chairman and Miss Sue Faulkner, the Vice Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee also gave their apologies.

The Mayor in opening the meeting welcomed Councillor Bernie Spoor to his first Council meeting, following his election at the recent By-election.

24/13 Disclosures of Interest

No interests were disclosed.

25/13 Localisation of Council Tax Support – Key Decision

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on the options for the localisation of council tax support and technical reforms to council tax discounts and premiums.

RESOLVED to approve:

- (1) a Local Council Tax support scheme from 1 April 2013, as set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report of the Assistant Chief Executive submitted to the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 21 January 2013 and subject to:
 - (1) The application of the regulations issued for schemes under the Local Government Finance Act 2012; and
 - (2) That protection for vulnerable people be increased from 95% to 100%.

(2) the Technical Reforms to Council Tax Discounts and Premiums (empty homes) as set out in paragraph 5.6 of the report of the Assistant Chief Executive submitted to the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting on 21 January 2013, subject to:

(1) The application of the regulations issued for schemes under the Local Government Finance Act 2012.

(3) the additional income from the Technical Reforms to Council Tax Discounts and Premiums be used to offset part of the loss of government funding in 2013/14 and reduce the level of savings required from the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, and as set out in paragraph 5.7 of the report of the Assistant Chief Executive submitted to the Extraordinary Cabinet meeting held on 21 January 2013.

26/13 Council Tax Base 2013-14

The Council considered the recommendation from the Cabinet on the proposed council tax base for 2013-14. In considering the matter the Council noted that as a result of the resolution on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, the tax base falls from 40,667 band D equivalent dwellings to 36,514.25 band D equivalent dwellings for 2013-14.

Councillor Tim Evans responded to a question raised by Councillor Beardsmore on the reason for the reduction in the number of Band D dwellings in 2013-14 when compared to 2012-13. Councillor Evans confirmed that the actual number of dwellings was still in the region of 40,000 but for calculating purposes it was in the region of 35,000. Details were set out in the report but he could provide more details in a specific answer, if required.

RESOLVED that the Council approves the council tax base for 2013-14 as a band D equivalent figure of 36,514.25 dwellings.

27/13 Urgent Business – Election of the Leader of the Council

The Mayor, Councillor R.W. Sider reported that following the resignation on Monday 21 January 2013 of Councillor Frank Ayers as Council Leader, there was an urgent need to appoint a new Leader.

Members placed on record their thanks to Councillor Frank Ayers for the work he undertook as Leader of the Council.

It was moved by Councillor Nick Gething and seconded by Council Tim Evans and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Robert Watts be appointed Leader of the Council until the day of the Annual Council Meeting held following the borough elections in May 2015.

The Mayor on inviting Councillor Watts to approach the dais to receive the Leader's badge of office took the opportunity on behalf of the whole council to congratulate Councillor Watts on his election of Leader of the Council.

28/13 Urgent Business – Appointment to the Surrey Leader's Meetings

The Mayor explained that as a result of electing a new Leader of the Council there was now a need to appoint Councillor Robert Watts onto the Surrey

Leaders' ,meeting and other such appropriate meetings at which the Leader of the Council would represent the Council.

RESOLVED that Councillor Robert Watts, the Leader of the Council, be appointed to represent the Council at the Surrey Leaders' meeting and other such appropriate meetings.