

MINUTES OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Spelthorne Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines-upon-Thames on Thursday, 25 February 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present:

Councillors:

M.M. Attewell	K. Flurry	A.J. Mitchell
C.B. Barnard	M.P.C. Francis	S.C. Mooney
R.O. Barratt	C.M. Frazer	A. Neale
I.J. Beardsmore	A.E. Friday	J.M. Pinkerton OBE
S. Capes	N.J. Gething	R.W. Sider BEM
R. Chandler	A.C. Harman	R.A. Smith-Ainsley
C.A. Davis	I.T.E. Harvey	B.B. Spoor
S.M. Doran	A.T. Jones	H.R.D. Williams
S.A. Dunn	V.J. Leighton	
T.J.M. Evans	M.J. Madams	

In Attendance:

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

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillors P.C. Forbes-Forsyth, A.L. Griffiths, N. Islam, D. Patel, O. Rybinski, D. Saliagopoulos, J.R. Sexton and H.A. Thomson and Miss Sue Faulkner, Vice Chairman of the Members' Code of Conduct Committee.

Councillor M.P.C. Francis, The Mayor, in the Chair

28/16 Minutes of Council - 17 December 2015

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 December 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

29/16 Minutes of Extraordinary Council - 2 February 2016

The minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 2 February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

30/16 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

31/16 Announcements from the Mayor

The Mayor invited all councillors to the Mayor's Ball on 9 April 2016, starting at 6.15pm, at the Runnymede Hotel.

The Mayor also informed councillors that there will be a St. George's day charity ladies lunch, organised by his wife the Mayoress, at Ashford Manor golf club on 26 April 2016 at 12.30 for 1pm. The name of the guest speaker is yet to be confirmed.

32/16 Announcements from the Leader

Councillor Harvey, Leader of the Council, made the following four announcements:

- He thanked all the staff for their support since becoming the Leader on 2 February 2016.
- The Towards a Sustainable Future (TaSF) programme will be re-started with the process for the Group Heads appointments.
- Good progress has been made on asset-related arrangements.
- New Cabinet appointments and portfolios as follows:
 - a. As well as the strategic co-ordination of Council Policy, the Leader's portfolio will also include strategic assets.
 - b. Councillor Harman, the Deputy Leader, will have Towards a Sustainable Future (TaSF) and Communications within his portfolio.
 - c. Councillor Barnard will have the Corporate Management portfolio.
 - d. Councillor Mitchell will have the Environment and Compliance portfolio.
 - e. Councillor Pinkerton will have the Housing portfolio.
 - f. Councillor Attewell will have the Community and Wellbeing portfolio.
 - g. Councillor Gething will have the Planning and Economic Development portfolio.
 - h. Councillor Williams will have the Finance and Customer Services portfolio.
 - i. The Leader is keeping the final portfolio vacant for now whilst taking stock of the main challenges facing the Council.

33/16 Announcements from the Chief Executive

There were none.

34/16 Questions from members of the public

In accordance with Standing Order 15.3 (c) of the Constitution, the Mayor directed that the following public question and answer be circulated in writing at the meeting without being read aloud:

Question from Mr Andrew McLuskey

“Given that, according to government figures, Spelthorne is the unhealthiest council area in Surrey , and also the 132st in England’s health league, and given also that Surrey has pointed out that we have pockets of deprivation in particular areas of the Borough what does the Council intend to do to remedy this unhappy situation.”

Response from Cllr. Jean Pinkerton OBE, former portfolio holder for Housing, health, wellbeing, Independent Living and leisure

Thank you for your question, Mr McLuskey.

The health and wellbeing of Spelthorne residents is a key priority for the Council and we dedicate significant resources to ensuring that residents of all ages have opportunities to stay physically and mentally active and maintain a healthy lifestyle. There is a huge choice of sporting and leisure activities in the Borough and many of these are provided free of charge.

It is not uncommon for Spelthorne to compare less than favourably in health statistics when compared with other Surrey Boroughs. The Borough lies to the south west of London and has a demographic which makes it more comparable with some outer London boroughs than the rest of Surrey.

Surrey is one of the healthiest counties in the UK and Spelthorne also fares well in the majority of health measures when compared with the national picture and that of our neighbouring boroughs. However, the Council is not complacent and recognises the key role it plays in helping to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, particularly those in areas of greater deprivation where certain health issues are more prevalent.

A Spelthorne Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being written in liaison with partner organisations, which includes several health related actions. The local strategy is aligned to the NW Surrey CCG Prevention Plan and the prevention element of the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It contains a number of initiatives all aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of residents, looking at local needs and evidence of what has worked well in the past.

Current initiatives include:-

- Surrey County Council commissioned Weight Management courses are currently running at Spelthorne Leisure Centre and Stanwell Rose Centre.
- Food premises can take part in the Surrey wide ‘Eat Out Eat well’ award scheme.
- Surrey County Council have commissioned Quit 51 to provide a Surrey Wide Stop Smoking Service and Spelthorne recently took part in the smoke free playground project.

- Spelthorne work very closely with Active Surrey, schools and local sports clubs to promote opportunities for sport within Spelthorne. Free sports sessions for young people will start in April as part of the Surrey Youth Games and a 'Sports week' will take place in the summer holidays for young people.
- There are several free opportunities for people of all ages to keep active including four skate/BMX parks, tennis courts, basketball courts and multi-use games areas and play areas. Plus several large parks and open spaces and riverside walks. We have a new 5k measured run route in Laleham Park, which is free to use.
- Spelthorne run a Walking for Health and Cycling for Health schemes for adults and an exercise referral scheme for those with health problems is available at Spelthorne Leisure Centre. Local walk route maps are available on the Spelthorne website and cycling maps are being developed.
- We have a disability sports club for young people on a Saturday morning and a Boccia Club for adults with disabilities on a Thursday evening.
- We are currently taking part in the Get Fit 50+ Surrey wide scheme in liaison with Active Surrey and Public Health and our day centres and community centres offer a wide range of activities for older people.
- We work with Action Surrey, Age UK and GP surgeries to ensure residents' homes are safe, warm and in a good state of repair.

35/16 Petitions

There were no petitions.

36/16 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2016-2017

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2016-2017.

RESOLVED that Council approves the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2016-2017.

37/16 Pay Policy Statement 2016-17

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on the Pay Policy Statement for 2016-17.

RESOLVED that Council approves the Pay Policy Statement for 2016-17.

38/16 Capital Programme 2016-2017 to 2019-20

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on the Draft Capital programme for 2016-17 to 2019-20.

RESOLVED that Council approves:

- The Capital Programme for 2016-17 to 2019-20.
- The Prudential Indicators for 2016-17 to 2019-20.

39/16 Revenue Budget 2016-2017

The Council considered the recommendation of the Cabinet on the detailed Revenue Budget for 2016-17 and the proposed Council Tax for 2016-17. The Mayor referred councillors to the Budget Book (green cover) reflecting the decisions and recommendations made by the Cabinet on 24 February 2016, including the precepts being levied by Surrey County Council and the Surrey Police.

The portfolio holder for Finance, Councillor Tim Evans, made a statement on the Budget and the Council Tax and moved the recommendations on the detailed Budget for 2016-17 as set out in the Budget Book (green cover). This was seconded by Councillor Ian Harvey, Leader of the Council. The Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Councillor Ian Beardsmore, also made a statement.

Copies of Councillors Evans and Beardsmore's speeches are attached to these minutes as **Appendices A** and **B**.

The Mayor explained that under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, relevant authorities are required to record in the minutes of the proceedings, immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of an authority, the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or who abstained from voting.

The voting was as follows:

FOR (24)	Councillors I.T.E. Harvey (Leader); A.C. Harman (Deputy Leader); M.M. Attewell; C. Barnard; R.O. Barratt; S. Capes; R. Chandler; C.A. Davis; S.M. Doran; T. Evans; K. Flurry; M.P.C Francis (Mayor), C.M. Frazer, A.E. Friday (Deputy Mayor); N. Gething; A. Jones; V.J. Leighton; M.J. Madams; A.J. Mitchell; S.C. Mooney; A. Neale; J.M. Pinkerton; R.W. Sider; R.A. Smith-Ainsley and H.R. Williams.
AGAINST (3)	Councillors I.J. Beardsmore; S.A Dunn; B. Spoor.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To approve the growth and savings items as set out in the report's appendices.**
- 2. The Council tax Base for the whole council area for 2016-17. [Item T in the formula in Section 31b (3) of the Local Government Finance Act**

1992, as amended (the “act”)] should be 38,308.40 band D equivalent dwellings and,

2.1 Calculate that the Council tax requirement for the Council’s own purpose for 2016-2017 is £187.44 per Band D equivalent dwelling.

3. To approve a 2.7% increase in the Spelthorne Borough Council element of the Council tax for 2016-17. Moreover:

a) The revenue estimates as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

b) No Money, as set out in this report is appropriated from General Reserves in support of Spelthorne’s local Council tax for 2016/17.

c) To agree that the council tax base for the year 2016/17 is 38,308.40 band D equivalent dwellings calculated in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council tax base) Regulations 1992, as amended, made under Section 35(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

That the following sums be now calculated by the Council for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Section 31 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992.

A	71,233,115	being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
B	64,052,589	being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
C	7,180,526	being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
D	187.44	being the amount at 3(c) above (item R), all divided by item T (2 above) calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
E	0	being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
F	187.44	being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3 (e) above by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings on those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates.

All newly built commercial property completed between 1st October 2013 and 30 Sept 2016 will be exempted from empty property rates for the first 18 months, up to the state aid limit.

A 50 per cent business rates relief for 18 months between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2017 for businesses that move into retail premises (excluding banks, building societies and betting shops) that have been empty for a year or more.

That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
124.96	145.79	166.61	187.44	229.09	270.75	312.40	374.88

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the sum which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band 'D', calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different band.

That it be noted that for the year 2016/17 Surrey County Council and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to Spelthorne Borough Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Precepts issued to the Council

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1) Surrey County Council	845.52	986.44	1127.36	1268.28	1550.12	1831.96	2113.80	2536.56
2) Surrey Police	146.79	171.26	195.72	220.19	269.12	318.05	366.98	440.38

That, having calculated the aggregate in each case above the Council in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, hereby sets the amounts set out in Appendix 6 as the amounts of Council tax for the year 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings on Appendix 3.

The Council has determined that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

As the billing authority, the Council has not been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Harvey, presented the reports of the following meetings:

The Leader's decision meeting held on 18 January 2016.
The Cabinet meeting held on 27 January 2016.
The Cabinet meeting held on 24 February 2016.

Both Cabinet reports outlined the matters which the Cabinet had decided since the last Council meeting.

41/16 Report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Alfred Friday, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had decided since the last Council meeting.

42/16 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.

43/16 Motions

There were none.

44/16 Questions on Ward Issues

There were none.

45/16 General questions

Under Standing Order 15, Councillor Quentin Edgington asked the following general question:

"What was the total cost of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2 February 2016?"

Response from the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Tony Harman

Thank you for your question, Councillor Edgington.

In actual cash terms, the cost of the meeting was £166, being the Committee attendance allowance paid to two members of the Committee Services team and the cost of printing and posting out the agendas.

However, the reputational cost to the Council was much higher, especially as the meeting would not have been necessary had you chosen to step down as the Leader of the Council following the selection of Councillor Ian Harvey as the Leader of the Conservative Group at its meeting held on 18 January 2016.

46/16 Appointments of representative Trustees

Resolved that:

- a. Mr. Matthew Calvert be re-appointed as a Council representative Trustee to serve on the Laleham Charities – Village Hall and Recreation Ground for a further 4-year term until February 2020.
- b. Mrs. Marion Bushnell be re-appointed as a Council representative Trustee to serve on the Ashford Relief in need Charity for a further 4-year term until October 2020.