

**THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2001  
BOROUGH OF SPELTHORNE**

**At the Meeting of the COUNCIL of the Borough of Spelthorne, held in the  
Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines  
On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2001 at 7.30pm**

Agarwal V	Fullbrook J M	Packman J D (Deputy Leader)
Amos Mrs P C	Grant Mrs D L	Ponton Mrs J.E
Appleyard M A	Hermes A W	Read E I J
Beardsmore I J	Hirst A P	Searancke E J
Blampied G G	Hyams Mrs M	Sider R W (Deputy Mayor)
Ceaser G S	James P R	Smith J E H
Crabb T W	Leedham Ms A	Smith Mrs P A
Davies F (Leader)	Martin Mrs M J	Smith-Ainsley R A
Drinkwater H V (Mayor)	Napper Mrs I	Stubbs T
Fisher C M	Norcross Mrs G A	Watkins R
Forsbrey G E	O'Hara E	Weston Mrs P
		Wood-Dow Mrs J M

H.V. Drinkwater, Mayor, in the Chair

**371/01 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors F. Ayers, L.J.W. Burrell, E.K. Culnane, Mrs H.E.L. Mellett, J.M. Paton and G.F. Trussler.

**372/01 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the special meeting held at 8.00pm on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 were approved as a correct record.

**373/01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to Standing Order 41(1), Councillor I.J. Beardsmore declared an interest in Executive Arrangements dealt with in Minute 381/01 below and was invited to remain at the meeting for consideration of that item.

**374/01 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor, Councillor H.V. Drinkwater, announced that the River Day would be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2001 and the Mayor's Secretary would send out details to

Members. He also gave notice of his Mayor's Jazz Night Concert being held at Echelford School, Ashford on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2001.

The Mayor then presented the Spelthorne Design Awards for 2000 to the winners of the various categories, including a new category for this year entitled "Public Art in Development". The purpose of the award scheme was to recognise good design in recently completed schemes and to encourage high standards of design in new schemes by highlighting recent achievements. This year from 31 nominations the judges had decided that 18 schemes deserved an award, with some schemes nominated in more than one category. On behalf of the Council he thanked the panel of judges for their hard work, in particular the Chairman of the panel, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, Chairman of the Planning Committee.

### **375/01 DELEGATED POWERS FOR UNDERTAKING SCREENING OPINION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENTS**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on Delegated Powers for Undertaking Screening Opinion for Environmental Statements.

**RESOLVED** that for a trial period of 12 months the "Screening Opinions" associated with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact) Regulations 1999 be delegated to the Director of Community Services, under the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

### **376/01 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- (1) To adjust the criteria previously agreed to take into account service with predecessor authorities and in particular to amend criteria © to read as follows:-  
"Nominees would have a minimum period of 12 years past service as a Borough Councillor, i.e. 3 Council sessions, but service to either the former Staines or Sunbury Urban District Councils be allowed to count towards the 12-year qualification period. "
- (2) To nominate former Councillor Geoff Kaye's appointment as an Honorary `Alderman.
- (3) That rights attached to the title of Honorary Alderman be approved in accordance with paragraph 5.1 of the Chief Executive's report to the Executive on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2001.
- (4) That a Special Meeting of the Council be held at Knowle Green at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2001 for the appointment at (2) above.

### **377/01 SINGLE CAPITAL POT – CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on the Single Capital Pot – Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- (a) To endorse the draft Capital Strategy and Management Plan and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise it for submission to the Government Office of the South East (GOSE) by 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2001; and

- (b) To agree that the Economic Committee should consider annually performance of the Council's property assets and in particular Spelthorne's performance against national and local property indicators.

### **378/01 DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE 2002/2003**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on the Draft Housing Strategy Update 2002/2003.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

1. To approve for public consultation the Draft Housing Strategy Update for 2002/2003, attached as Appendix A to the report of the Director of Community Services to the Executive on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2001.
2. That, subject to confirmation, the Housing Strategy Update for 2002/2003, as amended in light of the Consultation, be presented to a meeting of the Community Committee in September 2001.

### **379/01 REVIEW OF HIGHWAYS AND RELATED SERVICES**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on the Review of Highways and Related Services.

#### **RESOLVED to:-**

1. Continue with the enhancements of grass cutting, maintenance of shrub-beds and Highways weed control services for the remainder of this financial year.
2. Withdraw the 2001/2002 budget for additional footway maintenance.
3. Continue with our commitment to spend on the existing minor works and special items for this financial year.
4. Endorse the proposed structural changes, which will be subject to a full review and report back within 12 months of implementation.
5. Make office accommodation available to County staff engaged on the Highway function in the short term at terms to be agreed, and that the new arrangements are adequately publicised to enable residents and businesses to identify the appropriate responsible body.
6. Endorse the proposal that continued enhancement of SCC services be considered as a part of budget preparation for 2002/03 and future years.
7. Delegate authority to negotiate suitable terms for the delivery of the Highways Agency between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2001 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002 to the Chief Executive and the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Leader.

### **380/01 DRAFT LEISURE AND CULTURE STRATEGY 2001/2002**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on the Draft Leisure and Culture Strategy 2001/2002. The Leader emphasised the concerns of some Members that the draft Strategy needing strengthening in relation to the provision of Culture and the Arts in the Borough from the funds provided by the Executive for these particular areas. The Director of Community Services had been asked to address these issues and to include them in his report back to the Executive after the consultation exercise.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Draft Leisure and Culture Strategy for consultation with the public and other appropriate bodies and agencies, subject to various points of detail raised by Members, including increased emphasis on the Council's enabling role in supporting the Arts, and the addition of the Spelthorne Students Council to be consulted when the Officers investigate the proposal for "More Designated Meeting Places for Young People, Free of Charge".

### **381/01 EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on Executive Arrangements.

**RESOLVED** that:-

1. The distribution of Portfolios to members of the Executive, be as follows:-

Elderly Services - Councillor E.K. Culnane,

Youth Services - Councillor Mrs. D.L. Grant,

Corporate Services - Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley,

Environment and Planning - Councillor E.J. Searancke, and

Community Safety and Community Liaison - Councillor J.D. Packman;

2. The Chief Executive arranges, by the end of August 2001, a meeting between Management Team and the Portfolio holders at 1. above, to discuss future working relationships and the role of Portfolio holders;
3. The Council's new executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000 be implemented fully from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2001; and
4. The Director of Community Services be authorised to negotiate and finalise a new agency arrangement with Surrey County Council for the management of the Littleton Lane Caravan Site, if one is offered to the Council.

### **382/01 HONORARY FREEMAN**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on Honorary Freeman.

**RESOLVED:-**

1. That former Councillor Fred Smith be nominated as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.
2. That a Special Meeting of the Council be held at Knowle Green at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2001 for the appointment at (1) above.

### **383/01 THE EXECUTIVE**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Davies, presented his report which outlined the various matters the Executive had dealt with since the last Council meeting and he responded to a number of questions raised by Members.

It was noted that the deadline for receipt of tenders for the Staines Community Centre had been put back by two weeks to 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2001 for the reasons outlined verbally by the Leader.

#### **384/01 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

The Vice-Chairman of the Community Committee, Councillor Mrs I. Napper, presented the Chairman's report, which outlined the matters the Community Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

It was noted that Active Support had received a Sport England Lottery Grant of over £100,000 and that this national grant, together with continued support from this Council, would enable this Organisation to continue to provide access for local residents to a wide range of organised sport both within Surrey and across England.

#### **385/01 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Economic Committee, Councillor Mrs M. Hyams, presented her report, which outlined the matters the Economic Committee, had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

#### **386/01 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Environment Committee, Councillor G.E. Forsbrey, presented his report which outlined the matters the Environment Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

It was noted that a joint Members' Seminar for the Environment and Planning Committee Members on planning and other issues relating to Mobile Phone Masts would be held at Knowle Green at 7.00 pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2001.

#### **387/01 LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The report of the Chairman of the Licensing Committee was presented by Councillor Mrs. P. Weston, which outlined the matters the Licensing Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

#### **388/01 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, presented his report which outlined the matters the Planning Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman placed on record their thanks to the Council's Development Control Staff for their performance during 2000/2001. The national Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) performance figures for the determination of planning applications within the 8-week period, for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001, showed that Spelthorne had dealt with 74% of all applications, which was the highest performance in Surrey for the second year in succession.

#### **389/01 QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES**

Under Standing Order 13, Councillor E. O'Hara asked the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, the following question:-

“Roller shutter blinds have been installed in a number of premises within the Staines Conservation Area.

Some weeks ago I raised the matter with the Director of Community Services, who undertook to make the issue the subject of a report to the Planning Committee.

Since that report has not yet been presented to the Committee, could I ask for an undertaking that work IS being done on the issue, and also have an indication as to when that report will be before the Planning Committee so that we can establish a position that everyone can understand on a development which requires consent in a conservation area.”

Councillor Ceaser replied as follows:-

“The Director of Community Services is aware of the need to present a report on this issue to the Planning Committee. However, the planning legislation relating to the use of roller shutter blinds in conservation areas is ambiguous and he is currently consulting with neighbouring Authorities to ensure a consistent approach.

I will ensure that this report is on the Agenda for a future meeting of the Planning Committee and hopefully it will be ready in time for the September 2001 meeting.”

### **390/01 APPOINTMENTS TO SPECIAL INTEREST PANELS**

**RESOLVED** that the following Members be appointed to the Special Interest Panels as indicated below:-

**Arts and Heritage Panel:** Councillors Burrell, Fullbrook, Mrs. Martin and Mrs Napper.

**Environment Panel:** Councillors Fisher, Forsbrey, Hirst, Smith and Trussler.

**Health and Community Care Panel:** Councillors Fisher, Fullbrook, Mrs. Napper, Mrs. Norcross, Mrs. Smith and Trussler.

**Sports and Leisure Panel:** Councillors Mrs. Amos, Mrs. Napper, Paton and Watkins.

### **391/01 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

#### **(a) Ashford Church of England Primary School, School Road, Ashford**

**RESOLVED** that Mrs. Jacqueline Boddy be appointed as the Council Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Ashford Church of England Primary School, Ashford until 26th July, 2005.

#### **(b) Kenyngton Manor Primary School, Beechwood Avenue, Sunbury**

**RESOLVED** that Mr. John Went be appointed as the Council Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Kenyngton Manor Primary School, Sunbury until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2005.

#### **(c) Littleton Church of England Infant School, Rectory Close, Shepperton**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor L.J.W. Burrell be appointed as the Council Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Littleton Church of England Infant School, Shepperton until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2005.

**(d) Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School, Park Avenue, Staines**

**RESOLVED** that Miss Maureen Bain be appointed as the Council Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School, Staines until 31st July, 2005.

**(e) St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Manor Farm Avenue, Shepperton**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley be appointed as the Council Representative to serve on the Governing Body of St. Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Shepperton until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2005.

**(f) Christ the King RC First School, Falcon Drive, Stanwell**

**RESOLVED** that Mr. John Pinkerton be appointed as the Council Representative to serve on the Governing Body of Christ the King RC First School, Stanwell until 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2005.

**392/01 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated below.

**393/01 MANAGEMENT TEAM ARRANGEMENTS**

***(Paragraph 1 – Information Relating to Particular Employees)***

The Council considered the exempt recommendation of the Executive on Management Team Arrangements.

**RESOLVED** that:-

1. Michael Taylor, Chief Executive, be permitted to retire under the Council's early retirement scheme and be awarded maximum added years on the basis of the financial terms specified in paragraph 4 of the report, with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002, subject to achieving the timetable for the appointment of a new Chief Executive set out in Appendix D of the report;
2. Richard Fairgrieve, Director of Community Services, be permitted to retire under the Council's early retirement scheme, and be awarded maximum added years on the basis of the financial terms specified in paragraph 5 of the report, with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003, subject to achieving the timetable for a new Chief Executive set out in Appendix D of the report;
3. The recruitment and selection programme be agreed, as set out in Appendix D of the report, taking into account the retirement date of the Chief Executive as set out in 1) above; and
4. An Appointments Committee of 5 Members be established with authority in accordance with Standing Order 49 to recruit, interview and recommend to the Council a person to be appointed as a new Chief Executive, and to appoint a Recruitment Consultant to assist

them in the process including settling the specification for the post and the person to be appointed.

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