

THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH APRIL, 2002

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 25TH APRIL, 2002 AT 7.30 PM

<i>Agarwal V</i>	<i>Forsbrey G E</i>	<i>Paton J M</i>
<i>Appleyard M A</i>	<i>Fullbrook J M</i>	<i>Ponton Mrs J E</i>
<i>Ayers F</i>	<i>Grant Mrs D L</i>	<i>Read E I J</i>
<i>Beardsmore I J</i>	<i>Hermes A W</i>	<i>Searancke E J</i>
<i>Burrell L J W</i>	<i>Hirst A P</i>	<i>Sider R W (Deputy Mayor)</i>
<i>Ceaser G S</i>	<i>Hyams Mrs M</i>	<i>Smith J E H</i>
<i>Crabb T W</i>	<i>James P R</i>	<i>Smith Mrs P A</i>
<i>Culnane E K</i>	<i>Martin Mrs M.J.</i>	<i>Smith-Ainsley R A</i>
<i>Davies F (Leader)</i>	<i>Melletts Mrs H.E.L.</i>	<i>Stubbs T</i>
<i>Drinkwater H V (Mayor)</i>	<i>Napper Mrs I.</i>	<i>Trussler G F</i>
<i>Fisher C M</i>	<i>Norcross Mrs G A</i>	<i>Wood-Dow Mrs J M</i>
	<i>O'Hara E</i>	
	<i>Packman J D (Deputy Leader)</i>	

Councillor Vic Drinkwater, Mayor, in the Chair

112/02 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P. Amos, G.G. Blampied, Ms A. Leedham and Mrs P. Weston.

113/02 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st February 2002 were approved as a correct record.

114/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors C.M. Fisher and Mrs G.A. Norcross declared their respective interests, as Friends of Spelthorne Museum, in minute 121/02, (item on Security of Tenure – Spelthorne Museum, in the Leader's report on the work of the Executive.)

115/02 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Councillor Vic Drinkwater, announced that there would be a Charity concert at Echelford Primary School on Friday evening, 26th April and there were still tickets available.

Civic Pride Environmental Awards

The Mayor reported that Civic Pride had been set up in 1989 and the Award scheme started in 1992 and had now been running for 10 years. There were currently five ongoing Community projects at Black Ditch Walk in Shepperton, Laleham Pond, Millennium Wood, Beggars Lane in Stanwell and Lord's Bridge Pond in Shepperton with sponsorship for the schemes being received from both local and multi-national companies. Their biggest effort was in April as part of the National Spring Clean.

The Mayor introduced Jill Stephens, the Chairman of the Spelthorne Civic Pride Steering Group who together with the Mayor presented the Senior Environmental to Thorne for his work in Spelthorne as a tree warden and the Junior Environmental Award to 1st Shepperton Guides and the 6th Staines Scout Group for their Environmental project work.

116/02 PETITIONS

Crime and Disorder – W heatsheaf Lane/Garrick Close

The Mayor invited Mr. K.S. Thorn of 48 Garrick Close, Staines to present a petition on behalf of the residents of the W heatsheaf Lane and Garrick Close area and to address the Council. Mr. Thorn presented the petition and then outlined the reasons for it as follow:

"Local residents have signed the enclosed petition to record that they individually have been the victims of recent incidents involving personal verbal abuse, personal physical attacks or damage to their property by local youngsters in the Wheatsheaf Lane and Garrick Close area of Staines.

As the presenter of the petition, I would ask the Council to receive the petition and to agree that Council Officers, in consultation with the local Police, be requested to investigate these Crime and Disorder incidents and to present a report to the meeting of the Council's Executive on 5th June, 2002."

He also outlined personal details of incidents which had occurred to himself and his family.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, Councillor J.D. Packman, thanked Mr Thorn and the residents of the Wheatsheaf Lane and Garrick Close area, for the petition on behalf of the Council and stated that it would be referred to the meeting of the Executive on 5th June 2002.

Car Parking Charges in Staines

The Mayor invited Mrs Ventham of 19 Beechwood Avenue, Staines, to present a petition on car parking charges in Staines and to address the Council.

Mrs Ventham presented the petition on behalf of residents and small businesses in Staines concerning the increased charge (from £1.50 to £3.50) for over 4 hours parking in the long stay car parks.

The Leader, Councillor Davies, thanked Mrs Ventham for the petition on behalf of the Council and stated that it would be referred to the meeting of the Executive on 5th June 2002.

117/02 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION STRATEGY 2002 – 2005 – KEY DECISION

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on the draft Spelthorne Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2002/2005, which was a joint initiative supported by the Council, Surrey County Council and Surrey Police and the proposed action in relation to key issues raised at the Crime and Disorder Seminar held on 11th March 2002.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Spelthorne Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for 2002-2005 as now submitted be adopted
- (2) That the actions planned following the Crime and Disorder Members' Seminar held on 11th March 2002 be noted and endorsed.

118/02 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT – KEY DECISION

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on proposed Corporate Governance arrangements in response to issues raised in last year's Management Letter from the Council's external auditors, Baker Tilley.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council's code of corporate governance should be based on the existing arrangements outlined in Appendix B of the report of the Chief Executive;
- (b) That a further report be made to the Executive later in the year on the issues identified for further action in Appendix B;
- (c) That during the review of Executive arrangements consideration be given to which Committee or body should have responsibility for monitoring the corporate governance arrangements; and

- (d) That an appropriate statement about the Council's corporate governance arrangements be included in its annual financial report and Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP).

119/02 WHITE PAPER – STRONG LOCAL LEADERSHIP – QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES – SUMMARY OF PART II – FINANCE – KEY DECISION

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on the proposals in Part II of the Government White Paper – Strong Local Leadership – Quality Public Services – Finance - and the potential implications for Spelthorne's future finances and budgets. The two key issues which were likely to have an impact on the Council, were proposed changes to the grant system, which might result in a loss of grant to local authorities in the South East, and the proposed transfer of some or all of the housing capital receipts to a national pool.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That in partnership with other Surrey Districts strong representations be made to oppose any changes to the grant system which results in loss of grant to local authorities in the South East where costs are much higher than elsewhere in the country;
- (b) That the transfer of some or all of housing capital receipts to a national pool be strongly opposed by making representations on the basis that increased investment should be funded by additional grant, and not by taking much needed investment from other authorities; and
- (c) That the representations at (a) and (b) above, incorporate details of Spelthorne's own specific circumstances and concerns and be forwarded to the DTLR, the Local Government Association (LGA), Spelthorne's MP and be copied to all other Surrey MPs.

In accordance with Standing Order 18.4, a request was made by the Leader, Councillor F. Davies, for the voting on the above matter to be recorded. The vote was unanimous.

120/02 EXPENDITURE ON HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - KEY DECISION

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive seeking approval for an additional £400,000 of LA Social Housing Grant Funding for the development of new affordable homes at the Ashford Hospital Site.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That an additional allocation of £400,000 LASHG to support the Airways Housing Society and the Spelthorne Housing Association develop affordable homes at the Ashford Hospital Site be approved; and
- (b) That investigations be carried out, with the other agencies involved, into the potential community benefits that could arise from the development of sites A, B and C shown on the site plan presented to the Executive.

121/02 REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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, including the matters resolved at the meeting on 12th February 2002.

122/02 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Community Committee, Councillor G.F. Trussler, presented his report which outlined the matters the Community Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting. A copy of the Chairman's report on the Special meeting held on 18th April 2002, was circulated at the meeting.

123/02 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.

124/02 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.

125/02 LICENSING COMMITTEE

In the absence of the Chairman of the Licensing Committee the Vice Chairman, Councillor R.W. Sider, presented a report which outlined the matters the Licensing Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

126/02 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 Leader Councillor F. Davies thanked the retiring Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor G. S. Ceaser for his service over the past four years.

127/02 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Chennestone Primary School, Manor Lane, Sunbury

RESOLVED that Mrs A.A. Ceaser be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Governing Body of Chennestone Primary School, until 24th April 2006.

Clarendon County Primary School, Knapp Road, Ashford

RESOLVED that this appointment be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of the Council on 25th July 2002.

St. Michael's RC Primary School, Feltham Hill Road, Ashford

RESOLVED that County Councillor J.G. Carruthers be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Governing Body of St. Michael's RC Primary School, until 24th April 2006.

Shortwood Infant School, Stanwell New Road, Staines

RESOLVED that Mr K. Hartley be appointed to serve as the Council's representative on the Governing Body of Shortwood Infant School, until 24th April 2006.

Staines Parochial Charity

RESOLVED that Mr F. Willett be confirmed as the Council's Representative Trustee on the Staines Parochial Charity until 5th October 2005.