

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25th July 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 JULY AT 7.30PM**

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

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

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: Mrs P.C. Amos, F. Ayres, Mrs H.E.L. Mellett, G.F. Trussler, Mrs P. Weston and Mrs J.M. Wood-Dow.

Co-Opted Member: Mr M. Litvak

**226/02 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2002 were approved as a correct record.

**227/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor G.S. Ceaser declared an interest, as Chairman of the Governors of the School, in the item contained in the Leaders' report relating to the grant application to Bishop Wand School.

**228/02 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR/THE LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**a. Announcements by The Mayor**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor R.W. Sider, Councillor Peter James explained the project he had undertaken to ensure historic records were maintained of the wartime service provided by the vessels HMS Sonnet and HMS Unshaken. Both vessels had been adopted by the Borough during Warship Week in 1942.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Mayor presented to Ann Squires, the Manager of Shepperton Library, a framed photograph and records of HMS Sonnet and to Ralph Parsons, the Curator of Staines Museum, a photograph and records of HMS Unshaken for display at the museum.

The Mayor on behalf of the Council thanked Councillor James for the research he had undertaken to date and looked forward to receiving details on the motor torpedo boat Pennant at the next Council meeting.

At the conclusion of the presentation The Mayor reminded members of the following events:  
Annual Members/Officers Bowls Match at Duppas Park on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2002

The Mayor's River Day on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2002

The Mayors Charity Golf Day on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2002.

**b. Announcements by the Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive updated members on the progress of the restoration work following the arson attack at the Council Offices. He reported that one of the main operational problems following the fire was operating from temporary reception areas and to overcome this a portacabin for a reception area had been installed. It was anticipated that restoration work would be completed by 2<sup>nd</sup> September with normal working arrangements resuming shortly after that date.

**c. Announcements by The Leader**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Davies, reported that this was the last meeting of the Council which Michael Taylor, the Chief Executive, would attend before taking retirement in September. He paid tribute to his service and his commitment to the Borough over the last fourteen years and highlighted the many mile stones and major developments that he had overseen during that period. He placed on record the Council's thanks and appreciation to Michael Taylor for his total commitment, drive and ability, which had resulted in making Spelthorne one of the most successful authorities in the country. He wished him and his wife all the best for a long and happy retirement. The Leaders of the opposition Groups, Councillors M.A. Appleyard and I.J. Beardsmore also paid tribute to Michael Taylor and expressed their appreciation, from both current and past members, for the guidance and support he had given to all members.

The Mayor on behalf of all members then presented Michael Taylor with a retirement gift.

**229/02 SPELTHORNE COMMUNITY STRATEGY – KEY DECISION**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on a draft Spelthorne Community Strategy.

**RESOLVED** that the Spelthorne Community Strategy, as submitted, be adopted.

**230/02 SINGLE CAPITAL POT – ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CAPITAL STRATEGY– KEY DECISION**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on drafts of the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan including details of Spelthorne's performance against the national Performance Indicators.

**RESOLVED** to endorse the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan, and authorise the Chief Executive to finalise the documents for submission to GOSE (the Government Office of the South East) by 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2002.

**231/02 YEAR 2/3 PLANNED MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME– KEY DECISION**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on the progress and costs of years two and three of the five year rolling programme of planned maintenance for Council owned buildings.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. that a supplementary estimate of £350,000 be approved and financed from the reserves within the Repairs and Renewals Fund, to enable all the works identified in year three of the planned maintenance programme to be carried out; and

- b. that the approval of the supplementary estimate should not be regarded as creating a precedent for the repairs and renewals expenditure in future years.

**232/02 SURREY PENSION FUND DEFICIT– KEY DECISION**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive to make a further repayment of £800,000 to remove the Spelthorne element of the Surrey Pension Fund Deficit. The Council also noted that the Director of Resources was pursuing the possibility of such repayments being met from Capital Receipts rather than from Revenue.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That the Pension Fund deficit forecast at 1st October, 2002 of £800,000 be repaid to the Surrey Pension Fund;
- b. That subject to (c) below, it be agreed that the balance of £715,406 from the now defunct DSO Reserve Account be used to meet part of the repayment and the balance be met from general revenue reserves as determined by the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader, Councillor F. Davies and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, Councillor E.J. Searancke; and
- c. That the Director of Resources reports back to the Executive on 3rd September 2002 with further information on the Government allowing the Council's Deficit repayment to be met from Capital Receipts rather than Revenue.

**233/02 REVIEW OF HOUSING STRATEGY AND ADOPTION OF THE BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN – KEY DECISION**

**RESOLVED** as recommended by the Executive that the Housing Strategy 2003/2006, as circulated by the Director of Community Services, for submission to GOSE by 31st July 2002, be adopted.

**234/02 PLANNING CODE**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Standards Committee to revise the Council's Planning Code to bring it in line with the revised guidance issued by the Local Government Association.

Councillor T. Crabb referred to the concern expressed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Standards Committee about the public perception which could arise from the majority political group meeting prior to the Planning Committee, that planning decisions were being made prior to the actual Planning Committee meeting. He asked whether the majority group had reconsidered the need for such meetings as requested by the Chairman of the Standards Committee. Councillor Ceaser confirmed that this matter had been discussed by the political group and confirmed that the pre meetings would continue and the planning code would continue to be adhered to.

**RESOLVED** that the revised Planning Code, as submitted, be approved.

**235/02 SURREY SPATIAL STRATEGY**

The Council considered the report of the Director of Community Services which included the recommendations made at the Members Seminar held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2002.

**RESOLVED** that the County Council be informed that the Borough Council supports the Draft Spatial Strategy, subject to the comments set out in the report of the Director of Community at paragraphs 4.1 to 4.12 inclusive.

**236/02 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.

Councillor O'Hara with the agreement of the Council placed on record his congratulations to Surrey Police on the way they had tackled the crime and disorder problems in Staines.

**237/02 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

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

**238/02 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE**

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

**239/02 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Environment Committee, Councillor A.P. Hirst, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**240/02 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**241/02 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

In the absence of the Chairman of the Standards Committee, Councillor G.S. Ceaser presented the report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**242/02 QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES**

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor E. O'Hara asked Councillor J.D. Packman, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, the following question:-

"The Borough has recently introduced a strategy in relation to graffiti which appears to be very effective.

The Iron Bridge in Staines High Street, and the railway bridge in Laleham Road, Staines are both suffering occasional graffiti attacks and there appears to be some doubt over ownership and responsibility, as a result.

Could it please be established who is responsible for removal of this graffiti, since two of the gateways into Staines are being rendered unattractive, giving a poor introduction to the town?"

Councillor Packman replied as follows:-

"I agree with Councillor O'Hara that this unsightly graffiti does present an unsatisfactory introduction to Staines. It is particularly frustrating on the Iron Bridge at the end of the High Street where we spent £30,000 jointly with Railtrack repainting the bridge a few years ago.

Both bridges are the responsibility of Railtrack's successor company and as such they should be responsible for cleaning any graffiti on the bridges. Railtrack have given approval for the Council to remove the graffiti which either has to be done from above involving switching off the power supply to the track or from below which requires a partial road closure.

I have asked the Director of Community Services to investigate the option of cleaning this graffiti overnight which will be less disruptive to traffic.”

Councillor Packman went onto report on the successful performance and effectiveness of the graffiti squad and that it was hoped that these arrangements would receive the support from the business community to ensure a tidy and graffiti free Borough.

**243/02 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

**a. Clarendon County Primary School, Knapp Road, Ashford**

**RESOLVED** that Mrs Sylvia Johns of 4 Brownrigg Road, Ashford be appointed to serve as a representative on the Governing Body of Clarendon County Primary School, until 24th July 2006.

**b. Spelthorne Junior School, Ashford Common**

**RESOLVED** that the current representative Mrs Pat Todd be re appointed to serve as a representative on the Governing Body of Spelthorne Junior School, until 30th August 2006.

**c. St Mary's C of E Junior School, Clare Road, Stanwell**

**RESOLVED** that Mrs Doris Neville-Davies a former Chairman of the School Governors be appointed to serve as a representative on the Governing Body of St Mary's C of E Junior School, until 24<sup>th</sup> July 2006.