

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 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 17TH OCTOBER AT 7.30PM

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

Co-Opted Member: Mr M. Litvak

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors V. Agarwal, Mrs P. Amos, T. Crabb, G.E. Forsbrey, Ms A. Leedham and E. J. Searancke.

287/02 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th July, 2002 were approved as a correct record.

288/02 QUESTION FROM MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Under Standing Order 12, Dr Martine Meyer of 32 Knightsbridge Crescent, Staines asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Davies, the following question:

“Why is Surrey County Council erroneously designating places, institutions and bodies that are within the County of Middlesex as being in the County of Surrey, and what steps (and within what timescale) is Spelthorne Borough Council and its constituent members taking to ensure that these multiple misrepresentations are clearly corrected. Examples of such inaccuracies are the Adult Education institutions, Surrey Police in Staines, Middlesex, signposts on Spelthorne roads saying Surrey/entering Surrey, local maps etc.

The 1963 Act of Parliament in which the County Council of Middlesex was abolished states within its text that “the abolition of the 76 year old Middlesex County Council does not mean the abolition of the 1300 year-old County of Middlesex as they are two entirely different bodies.”

Spelthorne Borough Council, as well as Surrey County Council, have a statutory obligation to their electors – and in deed to the wider population – to provide accurate factual information about geographical place names.”

The Leader of the Council replied as follows:

“There are a number of national initiatives overseen and managed by the Improvement and Development Agency, which are underpinned by the development of a comprehensive National Land and Property Gazetteer. This requires all local authorities with the responsibility for street naming and numbering to develop a Local Land and Property Gazetteer against a British Standard [BS7666]. The standard states that the ‘county field’ shall be populated with the name of the relevant highway authority, which in the case of Spelthorne is Surrey. As there are concerns amongst fellow Members and Officers that the use of Middlesex will be omitted from the address data to be replaced with Surrey, we sought

clarification on this issue with the IDeA in August this year. The IDeA have confirmed that Surrey should be used to populate the 'county field' within our LLPG and in order to comply with the British Standard we need to incorporate Surrey in the address.

Furthermore, the Royal Mail guidelines indicate that 'post county' is no longer required on letters and that the 'post town' and the postcode are sufficient. With this in mind we have attempted to suppress and omit reference to Surrey in the planning property database and to use Middlesex purely for correspondence purposes, but this has not proved possible.

Whilst we need to ensure that the Borough Council complies with guidelines and standards, we have taken all reasonable steps to deal with the issue of Surrey appearing in addresses for properties within Spelthorne, resulting in the omission of Middlesex. I can also assure you that Surrey County Council has in no way whatsoever influenced the use of Surrey."

289/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor I.J. Beardsmore declared a pecuniary interest, in the item contained in the Leaders' report relating to the Surrey Pension Fund because he receives a small pension.

290/02 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR/THE LEADER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

a. Announcements by The Mayor

The Mayor reported on the following forthcoming civic events with details of how tickets could be obtained through the Mayor's Secretary:

The Llanelli Male Choir concert to be held at the Leisure Centre in Staines on Saturday 19th October, 2002.

The Staines Brass Band concert to be held at Halliford School on Saturday 23rd November, 2002.

The Parachute Regiment Concert to be held at Halliford School on Saturday 22nd February 2003.

The Mayor, Councillor R.W. Sider, presented the Spelthorne Design Awards for 2002 under various categories ranging from new commercial developments through to public art in development. This year a new category had been introduced for Energy and Efficiency sponsored by British Gas. The scheme was in its eighth year, its purpose being to recognise good design in recently completed schemes and to encourage high standards of design in news schemes by highlighting recent achievements.

This year, from 29 nominations, the judges decided that 16 schemes deserved an award, with some schemes nominated in more than one category. Three levels of award were made: Full; Highly Commended and Commended.

b. Announcement by the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Davies, updated members on the position of the Elmsleigh Centre and the five swimmers statue as follows:

"I met with the owners of the Elmsleigh Centre, Clerical Medical on 7th October, 2002 to discuss their proposals for the centre now that they have bought out Dusco's interests. After the meeting, it was agreed that I would issue a joint statement to bring members up to date with their refurbishment plan and the likely programme for improvements.

The owners are very aware of the key role the Elmsleigh Centre plays in the retail offer in Staines and wish to bring forward proposals for implementation during 2003, securing its place in the market. To achieve this, they will be appointing architects and a project team and commencing dialogue with the Council's planning officers on their detailed proposals.

The centre manager will make arrangements to inspect the five swimmers statue to see whether or how it might be re-housed in the scheme and have promised to report back on whether or not there is a suitable position for its relocation. There is clear support in the community for returning the five swimmers to the Elmsleigh Centre and we will await the outcome of the inspection before consulting the

public on other potential locations, if it should prove impossible to return the statue to the Elmsleigh Centre.”

c. Announcements by the Chief Executive

The Mayor in inviting the Chief Executive to make announcements welcomed her to her first Council meeting.

The Chief Executive, Karen Satterford, updated members on the seminars that had been arranged/cancelled and expressed the hope that as many members as possible would find the time to attend the events which were:

Date	Subject	Time
Monday 21 st October	Air transport and the third runway with external speakers in attendance	7.00pm
Monday 4 th November	Redevelopment of Kempton Park	Cancelled
Monday 4 th November	Parks Strategy	7.00pm
Monday 11 th November	Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)	7.00pm

The Chief Executive extended invitations to all members, to contact her office to arrange meetings with her to enable her to discuss local issues and tour the ward they represented.

291/02 HOUSING CAPITAL FINANCE – CONSULTATION PAPER – KEY DECISION

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on a response to the government consultation paper entitled ‘The Way Forward for Housing Capital Finance’.

RESOLVED:

- a) The response to the Government’s proposals for changes to Housing Capital Receipts and LASHG be opposed to in principle for the reasons as set out in the report of the Director of Resources to the Executive at its meeting on 1st October, 2002;
- b) Letters be sent to the Local Government Association, the Surrey Local Government Association and all Surrey Members of Parliament seeking support for opposition to the proposals; and
- c) Membership of the Debt Free Authorities Capital Receipts Group be confirmed and it’s submission to the Government be endorsed.

In accordance with Standing Order 18.4 a request was made for the voting on the motion, to be recorded. All those present voted unanimously in favour of the recommendation.

292/02 VEHICLES (CRIME) ACT 2001 – REGULATION OF MOTOR SALVAGE OPERATORS

The Council considered the recommendation of the Licensing Committee on establishing ways of registering motor salvage operators in Spelthorne, as required by the Vehicle (Crime) Act 2001 and to assist the Police with control of vehicle crime. It was noted that the application fee of £50 per applicant covered a three-year period.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Director of Community Services be authorised to deal with all aspects of the registration procedures, including approval, refusal or cancellation of registration under the Act;
- b) That a fee of £50 be charged to applicants; and
- c) The Licensing Committee be authorised to deal with any appeals against decisions made by the Director of Community Services to refuse or cancel any registration.

293/02 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.

During the discussion on the report, the Director of Community Services confirmed he would look at the possibility of the provision of disabled parking facilities at Kingston Road Car Park and advise Councillor E. O'Hara.

Councillor Mrs P. Smith on behalf of the Stanwell Village Hall Council thanked the Council for the financial loan to refurbish the Hall, which was a focal point for the Stanwell Community.

294/02 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Community Committee, Councillor G.F. Trussler, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

295/02 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.

296/02 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.

297/02 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

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

298/02 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. He informed members of the need to correct the report in respect of the performance figures for Development Control, which should have read, under the heading 'July (a),' 50% and not 33%.

He reported that the Deputy Prime Minister had refused planning permission by dismissing Chelsea's appeal to build a new training ground and youth football academy at Hazelwood Golf Course. The decision letter dated 9th October confirmed that the development was unacceptable in the Green Belt and would lead to noise disturbance to local residents and visitors to the adjoining cemetery. It would also result in the loss of golf facilities in the area. The Council requested that their thanks and appreciation to the team of officers who assisted with the planning application and the appeal process should be recorded.

299/02 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Standards Committee, Mr M. Litvak, presented his report which outlined the matter the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

300/02 APPOINTMENT OF NEW DIRECTORS

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the need to arrange a Special Council meeting to consider any changes proposed to the Chief Officer and departmental structure of the Council and the arrangements for the appointment of new Directors, in light of the forthcoming retirements of the Director of Resources and the Director of Community Services.

RESOLVED:

- a) That a Special Council Meeting be held on Monday 11th November, 2002 commencing at 6.00pm to consider any proposals for changes to the Chief Officer and departmental structure; and
- b) To establish an Appointments Committee of 5 members (3 Conservatives, 1 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat) to deal with the recruitment and appointment of new Directors at Spelthorne.

301/02 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLARE ROAD, STANWELL

RESOLVED that this appointment to serve as a representative on the Governing Body of St Anne's Primary School, Stanwell until 17th October, 2006 be deferred for further consideration.

302/02 URGENT ITEM – LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE CHANGES

The Mayor agreed that a motion submitted by the Leader of the Council should be taken as urgent business.

The reason for the urgency was that the request for support arose out of the Surrey Local Government Association meeting held on 16th October, 2002. A decision on funding would be made in the next few weeks and the Surrey Local Government Association needed to lobby before the decision was made.

RESOLVED that this Council join with colleague authorities, via the Surrey Local Government Association, to protest to central government on the proposals to change local government funding with the unanimous views of the Borough Council being as follows:

“That this Council deplores the chronic under funding by Central Government across the whole range of service provision in the South East of England in general and Surrey in particular and that we should join colleague authorities in supporting the strongest possible representation of protest to Central Government by the Surrey Local Government Association.

We further urge the Government to recognise that failure to address these matters could either lead to a catastrophic breakdown of services in the Borough and County or that totally unacceptable increases in Council Tax and precepts would need to be levied.”

In accordance with Standing Order 18.4 a request was made for the voting on the motion, to be recorded. All those present voted unanimously in favour of the motion.