

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 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 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

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

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors L.J.W. Burrell, F. Davies, A.W. Hermes, Ms A. Leedham and E.I.J. Read and Co-Opted Member, Mr M. Litvak.

#### **343/02 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 18th November, 2002 were approved as a correct record.

#### **344/02 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **a. Announcements by The Mayor**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor R.W. Sider, Councillor Peter James explained that this was the second phase of the project he had undertaken to ensure historic records were maintained of the wartime service provided by the vessels adopted by the Borough during Warship Week in 1942. The first phase had been the research into HMS Sonnet and HMS Unshaken with details being on display at Shepperton Library and the Spelthorne Museum. This part of the project covered photographs and records of the motor boat MTB 34.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Mayor presented a framed photograph of the motor boat to Christine Ganderton the Manager of Ashford Library and to Ralph Parsons the Curator of Spelthorne Museum for display at the museum.

The Mayor on behalf of the Council thanked Councillor James for the research he had undertaken and acknowledged that the ships plaque and photographs would remain on show at the Council offices.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Mayor reported on arrangements for the Parachute Regiment Concert to be held at Halliford School on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2003, tickets for which could be obtained through the Mayor's Secretary.

##### **b. Announcements by the Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive reported that the Council had received a Good rating from GOSE (Government Office for the South East) on both the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan. The Council had also received an average rating on the Council's Housing Strategy and would be meeting with GOSE in the New Year to discuss this.

#### **345/02 PLANNING BRIEF FOR AIRTRACK CORRIDOR – RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on the Planning Brief for the Airtrack Corridor and the need for the document to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Guidance.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. The amendments to the Airtrack Planning Brief as set out in Appendix B to the report of the Director of Community Services to the Executive at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2002 be agreed;
- b. The Planning Brief, as amended, be adopted by the Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance to be taken into account in considering the Council's response to Airtrack and development in the vicinity of the Airtrack Corridor;
- c. The Adopted Planning Brief be publicised and circulated to organisations involved in promoting and responding to the scheme;
- d. The contents of the Planning Brief be kept under review to ensure that it remains relevant to the scheme as it develops; and
- e. A further amendment be added to the Airtrack Planning Brief, "that despite the comments of the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA), Spelthorne sees the second railway station at Staines as essential if the Airtrack Scheme goes ahead.

**346/02 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/2004 to 2006/2007 – KEY DECISION**

**RESOLVED** that the Capital Programme 2003/2004 to 2006/2007 as set out at Appendix A to the report of the Director of Resources to the Executive on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2002 be approved, subject to £40,000 being added to the Programme for the refurbishment of play equipment from 2004.

**347/02 COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR TAX SETTING**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive based on the statutory requirement for the Council to approve the tax base, which would be used to calculate Spelthorne's entitlement to Revenue Support Grant and the level of Council Tax for the year 2003/2004.

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by Spelthorne Borough Council as its tax base for 2003/2004 be set at 38, 694.4.

**348/02 INCREASED BED AND BREAKFAST EXPENDITURE**

**RESOLVED** that as recommended by the Executive:

- a. Supplementary Estimate for Bed and Breakfast expenditure for the current year 2002/2003 of £220,000 be approved; and
- b. provision be made in the Outline Budget for 2003/2004 for Bed and Breakfast costs in the sum of £350,000.

**349/02 COUNCIL WORKING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Democracy Committee on changes to the Council's working arrangements and in particular revised scrutiny arrangements, the future of Special Interest Panels and an updated Member/Officer Protocol.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That the current Community, Economic and Environment Committees be replaced with two overview and scrutiny committees with the terms of reference as submitted and attached at [Annex A](#);
- b. That the changes (i.e. the replacement of the Community, Economic and Environment Committees with the two new committees) be implemented with effect from the Council AGM in May 2003;

- c. That the size of the two committees be agreed at a later date when they are appointed;
- d. That the actual names of the two committees be agreed at a later date when they are appointed;
- e. That the principle of overview and scrutiny committees being involved in scrutinising other key services in the Borough be endorsed;
- f. That the role of overview and scrutiny in Spelthorne should be to deliver measurable outcomes, which benefit the effectiveness of the Council and the community;
- g. That four meetings a year be programmed in the diary for each of the two new committees;
- h. That the size of future best value review panels be 5 members;
- i. That the Executive Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution be amended to provide for the chairman of an overview and scrutiny committee, or in his absence the vice-chairman, to be able to address the Executive in support of a report or recommendation from their committee;
- j. That the Special Interest Panels be dissolved and any other form of liaison arrangements considered necessary at Member level be established through the two new committees;
- k. That an amendment be made to the Constitution to reflect that the Standards Committee has and in future should have representatives from all parties on it;
- l. That the revised Member/Officer Protocol, as submitted, be agreed;
- m. That no changes be made to the portfolios held by members of the Executive, but the portfolio holders for Adult and Elderly Services and Children and Young People Services be asked to decide and make clear which one would normally lead on housing and which one would lead on leisure issues;
- n. That no changes be made to the arrangements for Leaders of the minority groups to speak at the Executive on key decisions, but in future when other Members not on the Executive attend meetings of the Executive their attendance be recorded in the minutes of the meeting;
- o. That the Executive Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution be amended as necessary to reflect the changes agreed;
- p. That the holding of regular Members' Seminars on the type of topics summarised in the report of the Chief Executive to the Executive on 12th February 2002 be supported, and that the holding of twice-yearly Seminars to update Members on key topics be given further consideration; and
- q. A meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel be arranged to consider possible changes to the current scheme of Members' Allowances to reflect the changes.

### **350/02 REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

In the absence of The Leader of the Council, the Deputy Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman presented the report which outlined the various matters the Executive had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

### **351/02 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.

Councillor Mrs D.L. Grant, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services thanked the Chairman and members of the committee for the enquiry undertaken in to facilities for youth and youth crime.

## **352/02 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.

## **353/02 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.

## **354/02 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.

## **355/02 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.

## **356/02 QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES**

### **Staines War Memorial**

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor J.M. Paton asked the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Packman, the following question:

“There was a very well attended service on Remembrance Sunday in Staines. It has been revealed however that the newly re-sited Staines War Memorial bears only the names of the dead from the First World War.

A local resident has researched the matter and I am given to understand that a grant can be obtained from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to add the names of the dead from other conflicts.

Will the Deputy Leader please confirm that this matter is being investigated?”

Councillor Packman replied as follows:

“Now that the Staines War Memorial has been re-sited in its new location, which has met with approval throughout the town, I agree it would be an excellent gesture for the names of those who died in the Second World War to be added to the memorial. As there are in excess of 100 names from the Second World War, it is unlikely the names can be added to the existing structure, but the Director of Community Services is investigating the practicalities of either having the names incorporated in the stone surround or by providing brass plaques fixed around the base of the memorial.”

### **The Five Swimmers Statue**

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor J.M. Paton asked the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Packman, the following question:

“In view of recent press speculation and the fact that there was a 500 plus petition asking for the Five Swimmers Statue to be relocated somewhere in the Elmsleigh Centre, Staines, could the Deputy Leader give yet a further update on this situation?”

Councillor Packman replied as follows:

“I am grateful for Councillor Paton’s question, as it gives me the opportunity to update the Council on the latest position with the 5 swimmers statue. Its re-location in the Elmsleigh Centre was discussed with the agents for Clerical Medical who are now considering how the statue can be built into their refurbishment plans and have promised to report back with their proposals once their plans have been completed. The Council’s preferred position is still that the statue should be returned to the Elmsleigh Centre which is seen by the residents of Spelthorne to be its natural home.”

**357/02 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES - ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLARE ROAD,  
STANWELL**

**RESOLVED** that David Hawthorne of 129 Town Lane, Stanwell be appointment to serve as a representative on the Governing Body of St Anne's Primary School, Stanwell until 17th October, 2006.