

THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20TH FEBRUARY 2003

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 20TH FEBRUARY, 2003 AT 7.30PM

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

R. W. Sider , Mayor, in the Chair

41/03 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A W Hermes, Ms A Leedham, Mrs M J Martin, Mrs H E L Mellett, Mrs I Napper, Mrs P Weston and Co-Opted Member, Mr M Litvak.

42/03 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2002, were approved as a correct record.

43/03 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Under Standing Order 12, Mr Holding of 64 Knightsbridge Crescent, Staines asked the following question to the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor R.A. Smith-Ainsley:

“Why was planning permission given for the housing development in Commercial Road when we understand that the Environment Agency were not supportive of such a development and also that in the Surrey Structure Plan 2002 Document, Policy SE3 says ‘Development for residential or commercial purposes in high flood risk areas is unacceptable’

In the past planning permission was refused to a local builder for residential development.

As is well documented the sewerage/foul water disposal system needs to be updated and improved in the Commercial Road/Knightsbridge Crescent area, taking into account, the large number of both commercial and residential properties in the vicinity – when will this much needed improvement be implemented?”

Councillor Smith-Ainsley responded as follows:

“The Commercial Road Depot site was identified in the Council’s Local Plan as a potential housing site in November 1994. The Environment Agency were consulted on that designation and at that time raised no objection to its redevelopment for that purpose. The outline planning application was considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 4 February 2000.

The Council approved the application against the Environment Agency’s advice because the site had for a long time been identified as a housing site (to which the Environment Agency had originally raised no objection) and because the site already contained extensive areas of buildings and hardstandings.

The Conditions imposed by the Council were in accordance with those recommended by the Environment Agency to ensure that the scheme was built with all the houses being raised above the 1 in a 100 flood level. A compensatory flood storage scheme was also provided again with the approval of the Environment Agency.

The provision of an adequate sewerage/foul water disposal system is the responsibility of Thames Water. The Council has appointed consultants to carry out a thorough investigation into the recent flooding, the findings of which will be used to make representations on behalf of local residents to both the Environment Agency and Thames Water.”

44/03 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

All members present disclosed a personal interest in minute 46/03 - Members Allowances.

45/03 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, THE LEADER AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(a) Announcements by The Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor R.W. Sider, reminded members that the Mayor's Ball would be held on 8th March, 2003 and details and tickets could be obtained from the Mayor's Secretary, Pam Cross.

He went on to report on the twinning event taking place on 1st March, 2003 at the BP Meadhurst Club in Sunbury. The event was a football tournament involving young football players from the Borough, the twin town of Melun in France and Crema in Italy. The tournament was being held to improve links between the towns and it was envisaged that it would become an annual event. He hoped as many members as possible could find the time to attend and give support to the players.

He reminded members that Councillor Mrs Hyams had completed the Loch Ness Swimathon challenge and sponsorship money was now due.

(b) Announcements by The Leader

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Davies, reported that in July last year the Council paid tribute to the retiring Chief Executive, Michael Taylor and tonight was the turn of Richard Fairgrieve the Director of Community Services who was retiring at the end of March, 2003. He paid tribute to the service he had given to the Borough since his appointment in 1993 and highlighted the major developments and changes that he had overseen during that period.

He placed on record the Council's thanks and appreciation to Richard Fairgrieve and wished him and his wife all the best for a long and happy retirement.

(c) Announcements by the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive, Karen Satterford, reminded members of the seminar being held on Monday 24th February, 2003. The seminar would give all members the opportunity to discuss the refurbishment of the Elmsleigh Centre and the future of the Council Offices with the property agents. She hoped that as many members as possible would find the time to attend the event.

46/03 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive to support the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel appointed to consider Members' Allowances. The report from the Independent Panel had been circulated to all members of the Council.

RESOLVED:

(a) That with effect from 1st April, 2003 the following allowances be paid to members:

Basic allowance - all Councillors	£3400
Leader	£7800
Deputy Leader	£5180
Executive Members (4 excluding Leader/Deputy Leader)	£2600
Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees (3)	£2600
Principal Opposition Group Leader	£2600
Minority Opposition Group Leader	£1300
Chairmen of Planning and Licensing Committees (2)	£2600

(b) That the Chairmen of the two new Scrutiny Committees to be appointed in May 2003 to each receive a special responsibility allowance of £2600;

(c) That the childcare and dependent carers' allowance should remain on the basis of reimbursement of actual cost incurred, this to be reviewed in the light of claims received; and

(d) The Council conveys its appreciation to Mr Wells for his work on the Independent Remuneration Panel and authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with Group Leaders, to appoint a replacement Panel member.

47/03 REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2003/2004 – KEY DECISION

The Council considered the report of the Director of Resources on the Revenue expenditure budget for 2003/2004 and Revenue Budget summaries for the year ending 31st March 2004.

The Mayor, Councillor R.W. Sider, reminded members that a revised Budget Book together with revised Budget recommendations was sent to all Councillors on 14th February, 2003 and reflected the decisions and recommendations of the Executive. It also set out the precepts from Surrey County Council and Surrey Police.

The Mayor gave his consent under Standing Order 16.4 for the budget speech of each of the Group Leaders to exceed five minutes but not to exceed 10 minutes. The Council agreed that the budget speeches of the Leader and other group leaders could exceed 10 minutes.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Davies, made a statement on the Budget and Council Tax and moved the recommendations set out in the revised papers circulated. This was seconded by the Deputy Leader. The Leaders of the opposition Groups, Councillors M.A. Appleyard and I.J. Beardsmore also made statements.

A copy of the Leader's statement was made available for other Members, the press and public at the meeting and is **attached at Appendix A**.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Beardsmore and seconded by Councillor Crabb to make a reduction of £26,897 in the proposed budget for the Corporate Publicity. The saving from this area to be used to increase the graffiti-cleaning budget by £23,497 with the remaining £3,400 being used to allow for a reduction in the charge for green garden sacks from 70p to 60p each. These changes did not affect the bottom line budget but did alter the figures set out in the motion at 4(a) and 4(b). The amendment was lost.

79.07 92.25 105.43 118.61 144.97 171.33 197.68 237.22

Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 2(iv)(e) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the sum which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band 'D', calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different band.

- (vi) That it be noted that for the year 2003/2004 the Surrey County Council and Surrey Police have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 as amended of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Surrey County Council	567.66	662.27	756.88	851.49	1040.71	1229.93	1419.15	1702.98
Surrey Police	90.06	105.07	120.08	135.09	165.11	195.13	225.15	270.18

- (vii) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2(vi) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2003/2004 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Valuation Bands

A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
736.79	859.59	982.39	1105.19	1350.79	1596.39	1841.98	2210.38

48/03 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.

49/03 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.

50/03 ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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

51/03 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.

52/03 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.

53/03 QUESTIONS ON GENERAL ISSUES

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor P.R. James asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Davies, the following question:

"When will the High Street bollards be fully operational and what is the reason for their failure? Have we any assurances from the makers that the bollards they supplied are of good quality and will be robust enough for their daily use when repaired?"

Councillor Davies responded as follows:

"Members may be aware that, at the request of Councillor James, this matter was discussed by the Economic Committee on 4th February and is referred to in the Chairman's report on page 19 of this agenda.

The rising bollard in Staines High Street has been damaged by a vehicle and, although the bollard is of good quality and of a robust nature for general use, it is obviously unable to resist damage from such vehicles. In view of the unique nature of the bollard, which has been chosen to match other street furniture, its replacement has taken longer than anticipated, but it is hoped a new bollard will be installed within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

The Officers have been investigating how to ensure speedier repairs or replacement, in order to avoid any delays in future, and have now ordered an additional rising bollard, which will be kept in store and used to replace immediately any damaged High Street bollard.”

54/03 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES – SURREY COUNTY HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Surrey County Council be advised that this Council does not wish to nominate a member for appointment to the Surrey County Health Select Committee.