

## THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH APRIL 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 24TH APRIL, 2003 AT 7.30PM

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

R. W. Sider, Mayor, in the Chair

#### **89/03 89/03 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P C Amos, A W Hermes, A Leedham, Mrs H E L Mellett and R A Smith-Ainsley.

#### **90/03 90/03 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2003, were approved as a correct record.

#### **91/03 91/03 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

The Mayor, Councillor R. W. Sider, disclosed a personal interest in Item 5 of the agenda – Questions from Members of the Public, because his daughter lived in the development referred to in the question.

Councillors L.J.W. Burrell, E.K. Culnane and Mrs P.A. Smith also disclosed personal interests in Item 5 as the Borough Council's representatives on Spelthorne Housing Association.

#### **92/03 92/03 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, THE LEADER AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **(a) (a) Announcements by The Mayor**

##### **Civic Pride Environmental Awards**

The Mayor, Councillor R.W. Sider, announced that Civic Pride had been established with the aim of improving the environment of the Borough. The Civic Pride environmental award scheme started 11 years ago in 1992, with the purpose of acknowledging the work of volunteers. As an indication of the success of Civic Pride and its achievements to date, volunteers had contributed 11,500 hours of their own time working on various projects, had collected about 4500 bags of litter and planted approximately 150,000 bulbs throughout the Borough. There were currently five ongoing community projects: Black Ditch Walk; Laleham Pond; Millennium Wood; Lord's Bridge Pond at Shepperton and the Nature Reserve at St. Nicholas' School, which he would be officially opening on Friday 25th April. Sponsorship of these projects played an important role in raising funds to carry out the work of Civic Pride.

The Mayor then introduced Jill Stephens, Chairman of Spelthorne Civic Pride who together with the Mayor presented the Senior Environmental Award to David Woods for his work in Spelthorne as a tree warden and the Junior Environmental award to Clarendon School for their work in creating their school environmental area.

##### **Welcome to New Strategic Director (Community)**

The Mayor welcomed Nigel Lynn who was attending his first Council meeting as Strategic Director (Community).

##### **Civic Reception**

The Mayor thanked Councillors for their help and assistance with his civic reception on 16th April.

##### **(b) (b) Announcements by The Leader**

## **Tribute to Retiring Members**

Councillor Frank Davies, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to Councillors A.W. Hermes, Mrs H.E.L. Mellett, G.G. Blampied, L.J.W. Burrell, T. Stubbs and H.V. Drinkwater who would not be standing again in the forthcoming Borough elections and recalled details of their service and achievements as Members of the Borough Council.

Councillor Mark Appleyard, Leader of the Labour Group, paid tribute to Councillors A. Leedham, Mrs P.A. Smith, J.E.H. Smith and R. Watkins who would not be standing again.

## **Retirement of Peter Harding, Director of Resources**

Councillor F. Davies, Leader of the Council paid tribute to Peter Harding, the Council's Director of Resources who was retiring as this would be his last attendance at a Council meeting.

He presented details of his early career in local government, his appointment to Spelthorne in 1974 which culminated with his promotion to Director of Finance in 1987 and Director of Resources in 1996.

Councillor Davies praised him for his patience in helping members to understand the difficult area of local government finance and his good advice. Councillor Davies thanked him personally for the exceptionally clear advice he had given during the Council's housing stock transfer. Peter Harding had been a first class officer and on behalf of the Council he wished him well for his retirement.

Councillor I. Beardsmore, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, concurred with these remarks and added that he had always found him to be courteous and to possess great integrity when dealing with Members.

Councillor M. A. Appleyard, Leader of the Labour Group, supported what had been said and added that Peter Harding had been of great assistance to him and had always been a gentleman in his dealings with Members.

The Mayor, Councillor R. W. Sider, referred to his hobby of photography and presented him with a cheque in order that he could purchase a camera of his choice. He said that he was an outstanding team player and wished him health and happiness in his retirement.

Peter Harding then thanked Councillor Davies and Members for the way in which he had been treated during his time at Spelthorne saying that he had enjoyed working at Spelthorne and it had been a pleasure to be a part of an excellent authority and its achievements.

## **93/03 93/03 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Under Standing Order 12, Mr David Markham of 4 Hawthorne Court, Hawthorne Way, Stanwell, asked the following question of the Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Davies: -

“Will the Leader of the Council please inform me where I might go to appeal to a higher body, above APEX Housing to whom I have already put my complaints, regarding my dissatisfaction as to the cost and lack of sufficient consultation of ourselves, the residents of Hawthorne Court, Stanwell when the business of redecoration of the shared flats is due?”

Councillor Davies responded as follows:

“Your property was originally part of the Council's housing stock but in 1996 was transferred to Spelthorne Housing Association [since re-named Apex Housing Group] as part of LSVT and is now under their jurisdiction.

Housing Associations are subject to an independent Ombudsman system and I understand complaints about maladministration can be directed to:

The Independent Housing Ombudsman, Norman House, 105-109 The Strand, London, WC2R OAA.

The Ombudsman will only consider a case if all internal complaint mechanisms within the Housing Association have been exhausted, including the submission of a complaint direct to the Board of Management.

I believe your lease is covered by the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985, which states that service charges must be reasonable. Disputes can be referred to a valuation tribunal and further advice on this and the lease generally can be obtained from:

LEASE – The Leasehold Advisory Service, 70-74 City Road, London, EC1Y 2BJ

He sympathised with the concerns of the leaseholders and asked the 3 Members who are the Borough Council's representatives on Spelthorne Housing Association to note the complaint and take the matter up with the Association.

#### **94/03 94/03 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

##### **Draft Calendar Of Meetings – 2003/2004**

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive on a draft of the Calendar of Meetings for the 2003/2004 Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** that the Council approve the draft Calendar of Meetings for 2003/2004 as submitted.

##### **Designation Of Proper Officers Under Section 46 Of The Public Health (Control Of Diseases) Act 1984 And Section 47 Of The National Assistance Act 1948 (As Amended By The National Assistance Amendment Act 1951)**

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive on a report on the National Health Protection Agency and local Surrey Health Protection unit which will come into force on 1st April 2003 and is recommending the appointment of the relevant staff as Proper Officers under the Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act 1984 and the National Assistance Act 1948.

**RESOLVED** that the Council approve option 3, as set out in section 4.3 of the report of the Director of Community Services to the Executive, which enables the changes in staff at the Surrey Health Protection Unit to be considered and the relevant staff to be appointed as Proper Officers immediately.

#### **95/03 95/03 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

##### **Standards Board's Annual Assembly**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Standards Committee to add the Standards Board's Annual Assembly to the list of conferences approved by the Council for the payment of travelling and expenses under section 175 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**RESOLVED** that the Standards Board's Annual Assembly be added to the list of conferences approved by the Council for the payment of travelling and expenses under section 175 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Leader, Councillor F. Davies asked the monitoring officer to ensure that provision was made to enable Members to attend this conference.

He also thanked the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. M. Litvak, for his work and service on this Committee.

#### **96/03 96/03 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.

#### **97/03 97/03 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.

#### **98/03 98/03 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.

#### **99/03 99/03 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.

#### **100/03 100/03 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.

#### **100/03 101/03 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor H.V. Drinkwater, presented the Chairman's report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

**101/03 102/03 STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

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

**102/03 103/03 CHAIRMEN'S THANKS**

The Chairmen of the Community, Economic, Environment, Licensing, Planning and Standards Committees respectively, thanked Members and Officers for their work, help and assistance over the past municipal year. The Leader of the Council thanked the Chairmen on behalf of the Council for their work and leadership of their respective Committees.

**103/03 104/03 NEW OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The Council agreed the terms of reference for two new overview and scrutiny committees at its meeting on 12th December 2002, but decided to leave consideration of their name and size of membership to a later date. The exact number of members needed to be decided in the light of the forthcoming election.

**RESOLVED** that the new overview and scrutiny committees should be called Improvement and Development and Performance Management and Review, respectively and the exact size of membership of those two committees be agreed at the Council AGM on the basis they will be in the region of 15 or more members.

**104/03 105/03 MAYOR'S THANKS**

The Mayor, Councillor Robin Sider, thanked retiring Members for their service to the Borough and wished them success and good health in the future. He then, with consent of members, waived standing orders to enable retiring members to make personal statements thanking members, colleagues and officers and to wish the Council and Borough every success for the future.