

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31ST JULY, 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 31ST JULY, 2003 AT 7.30PM**

Amos Mrs P C	Grant Mrs D L	Packman J D (Deputy Leader)
Ayers F	Hirst A P	Paton J M
Beardsmore I J	Hyams Mrs M	Ponton Mrs J E
Bhadye S	Jaffer H R	Royer M R
Ceaser G S (Mayor)	James P R	Searancke E J
Chouhan	Langridge-John Mrs J B	Sider R W
Colison-Crawford R B	Leighton Mrs V J	Spencer Mrs C L
Culnane E K	Lorch S B S	Strong C V
Davies F (Leader)	Madams Mrs M J	Trussler G F (Deputy Mayor)
D'Sa R V	Napper Mrs I	Weston Mrs P
Forsbrey G E	O'Hara E	Wood-Dow Mrs J M

Co-Opted Member: Mr M. Litvak

G S Ceaser, Mayor, in the Chair

Minute Silence

The Mayor invited the Council to hold a minute's silence in remembrance of the recent loss of two prominent members of the Borough. Mr D.J. Squire who received the Freedom of the Borough in 1993 and who was held in great esteem in the garden fraternity. Mr Eric Baxter who had given 16 years service to the Council and had been Mayor in 1988/1989. He reminded members that Eric Baxter had been the driving force for introducing Spelthorne in Bloom, which was continuing to this day.

192/03 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss M. Bain, M.L. Bouquet, J.M. Fullbrook, Mrs J.M. Pinkerton, J.D. Pinkerton, and Mrs D. Turner.

193/03 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June, 2003 be approved as a correct record.

194/03 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND THE LEADER

(a) Announcements by The Mayor

Spelthorne Fun Day

The Mayor thanked Members for their help and support with the Spelthorne Fun Day held on 13th July, 2003.

Annual Members/Officers Bowls Match

The Mayor reminded members that the annual friendly bowls match between members and officers would take place at Bishop Duppas Park on 29th August, 2003.

Picnic in the Park

The Mayor reminded members that the 'Picnic in the Park' event would be held in the Walled Garden in Sunbury at 7.30pm on Saturday 6th September, 2003. Tickets would be on sale next week and he hoped, as many members as possible would support the event.

(b) Announcements by The Leader

Proposed Park and Ride Scheme by the Royal Borough of Kingston

The Leader announced that the Royal Borough of Kingston at its Council meeting on 9th September, 2003 would be considering a 'Park and Ride' scheme which could involve sites at Sandown Park, Junction 9 of the M25 at Leatherhead and at Kempton Park, which affects Spelthorne.

The Leader expressed concern that the Royal Borough of Kingston had not undertaken any consultation, particularly with other Boroughs which the proposed scheme could affect. He informed the Council that Councillor O'Hara when he presented his report on the work of the Planning Committee would give further details, but would not prejudice himself in the event of a planning application coming forward.

195/03 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. In moving the report the Leader invited questions from members which were answered by the relevant Portfolio Holders as indicated below:

Councillor G.E. Forsbrey, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Planning, responded to questions relating to proposals to provide free use of tennis courts with full details of the scheme contained in the draft Parks and Open Space Strategy.

Councillor Mrs D. L. Grant, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services, responded to questions relating to the works being undertaken at the Leisure Centres.

Councillor E. Searancke, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, responded to questions relating to the financial assistance given to the Shepperton Play group.

Councillor J.D. Packman, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, responded to questions relating to the immediate implementation of the security in parks scheme and the appointment of Police Community Support Officers for the Parks, which was jointly funded by the Borough Council and Surrey Police.

196/03 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor E. O'Hara, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting. He went on to inform members of the proposed 'park and ride' scheme being considered by the Royal Borough of Kingston. The consultants commissioned to undertake a study had identified Kempton Park as a possible suitable Park and Ride site. A number of members commented and concerns were expressed at the lack of consultation and the potential impact of traffic on the area, particular at the Sunbury Cross junction, if Kempton Park was used as a park and ride site.

197/03 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 and responded to questions raised.

198/03 QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor E. O'Hara asked the Leader of the Council, Councillor Davies, the following question:

"The Executive at Surrey County Council has agreed "That the County Council takes a leadership role.....in organising and managing an outline business case study for the Airtrack project."

This project has very significant implications for Staines, (and Stanwell North).

Surrey intend to seek financial contributions to Fund this case, and a contribution from this Authority could be seen as a turkey voting for Christmas. Despite this, could the Leader of

the Council assure Members that the interests of residents of Spelthorne will be forcefully represented, along with the case made in our Planning Brief on the matter, in any forum which may be created to take the matter forward?"

Councillor Davies responded as follows:-

"This is another serious matter effecting a great number of people. In March this year the Executive decided not to contribute to the cost of preparing an Outline Business Case for Airtrack but, in view of the specific impacts of the scheme on Spelthorne, said that the Council would wish to be consulted on the technical work in preparing the Business Case and would also wish to be assured that the Business Case will be prepared in the context of our Planning Brief for the Airtrack Corridor.

The report to Surrey's Executive acknowledges the value of the Planning Brief in setting out impacts and potential remedial measures and recognises that Spelthorne's concerns need to be addressed. We have been assured that we will be consulted in the preparation of the Airtrack Business Case.

Officers of this Authority attend the Airtrack Forum, which is chaired by Surrey County Council, and have also met separately with key decision makers involved with Airtrack, including BAA and the Strategic Rail Authority. All organisations in the Forum were consulted on and received a final copy of our Planning Brief, which has raised awareness of the serious environmental impacts of the scheme.

We will continue to highlight the environmental impacts of the project on Spelthorne and the importance of properly addressing them to those involved in promoting the project.

Although it is not included within the Strategic Railway 10 year plan it so important that it could be in next years capital programme for such schemes. Currently the officers attend a forum which has no member involvement and I believe it has now come to the point to enhance our profile and put forward a strong case so that we can protect the Borough and residents of Spelthorne."

It was suggested by the Leader and subsequently **agreed** that the Leader, in consultation with the Officers, involve members in drawing up a strong business case for the project.

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor P.R. James asked Councillor J.D. Packman, the Portfolio Holder of Community Safety and Community Liaison, the following question:

"There is damage being caused to the concrete seating in the Memorial Gardens, Staines and the War Memorial water chute and its edges by skate boarders. The seating smooth edges have been destroyed back to the hardcore, there are bicycle marks on the Memorial water chute and no respect paid to that area by the present younger generation. Can this area have a ban on skate boarders and more protection given to the Staines Town War Memorial. The Police need to take firm action over this matter and need to have visible presence to act as a deterrent? It may also be helpful if the fountains were turned back on?"

Councillor Packman responded as follows:-

"Officers within our Community section are currently working to engage with the skaters and BMX riders that use Memorial Gardens and the War Memorial, with the aim of investigating a permanent skate park in Spelthorne, so that they have somewhere where they can skate "officially".

Members are probably aware that we currently have a temporary skate park in the Elmsleigh Surface Car park that opened on Sunday 27th July and will remain until Sunday 3rd August. The park is proving to be extremely popular and had over 120 youths at the park all day on Monday 28th July, including a number of the youths that have previously skated in Memorial Gardens and Market Square.

It is a little early to judge the success of the temporary skate park at the moment, but it would seem that there is a very high demand for such a facility. Officers will be fully reviewing the skate park over the next few weeks and will make a recommendation for future delivery.

If we are to put an end to the misuse of Memorial Gardens and the War Memorial, we will also need to take measures to protect these areas. This would involve making modifications to the area to make it as difficult as possible for the youths to ride their bikes and boards on the benches and the smooth edge of the water feature. Officers are investigating the most effective means of doing this. The new Parks PCSO's may well also be able to assist with this problem as part of their responsibilities."

Councillor R.B. Colison-Crawford asked Councillor J.D. Packman, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, the following question:-

"Would the Executive Member for Community Safety and Community Liaison please advise me in respect of the new Police Community Support Officers [PCSO's] for our parks. Who will be in operational control of these Officers and will local Councillors be kept up to date of issues effecting their Wards?"

Councillor Packman responded as follows:-

"The deployment of the Parks PCSO's under this scheme will be undertaken jointly by the Police and the Borough Council, but it is intended that initially the operational control and coordination of the PCSO's will be carried out at Council level, through the Head of Environment Services and also by the Parks Liaison Officer.

Any operational decisions taken will be in conjunction with our other security policies and functions and in accordance with Police protocol will be in direct contact with the Police.

We will of course keep Members informed of the progress of this scheme. The extent to which Members become involved will depend on the level of activity within their own particular wards. A protocol for e-mailing to Members a summary of the incidents, activities and actions will be devised before the scheme is implemented, and will be amended to accord with Members needs as the scheme develops.

When the scheme is up and running the officers will liaise direct with ward members and residents rather than come back to the Council."

199/03 LICENSING REFORMS – LICENSING ACT 2003 – PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Council considered the report of the Strategic Director (Support) on the implications for the Council on the introduction of the new Licensing Act 2003 and the changes required to the Council's Licensing Committee and functions.

RESOLVED:

- (a) The proposals for increasing the size of the Licensing Committee to 15 Members be endorsed;
- (b) The political allocation of seats and the Members to serve on the Committee be as follows:

Conservatives (13)	Liberal Democrats (2)
Councillors Mrs P.C. Amos, F. Ayers, F. Davies, A.P. Hirst, Mrs V.J. Leighton, Mrs M.J. Madams, Mrs I. Napper, J. O'Hara, J.M. Paton, J.D. Pinkerton, M.R. Royer, R.W. Sider and Mrs P. Weston.	Councillors Mrs J.E. Ponton and C.V. Strong

- (c) The terms of reference for the Licensing Committee be amended to include all functions relating to any Licensing requirement for which the Council has been granted jurisdiction under any legislation; and
- (d) Members training on licensing issues be ongoing with the cost being met, for this financial year, from the Members' Training Budget.

200/03 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Spelthorne Infant and Nursery School, Chertsey Road, Ashford Common

RESOLVED that Barbara Wolff be re appointed as a representative on the Governing Body of Spelthorne Infant and Nursery School for a further 4 years until 6th September, 2007.