

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON  
THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER, 2003**

**At the Meeting of the SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines, on 23rd October, 2003 at 7.30 p.m.**

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

Co-Opted Member: Mr M. Litvak

G S Ceaser, Mayor, in the Chair

**244/03 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. P.C. Amos, J.M. Fullbrook, S.B.S. Lorch and Mrs. J.M. Pinkerton.

**245/03 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st July, 2003 be approved as a correct record.

**246/03 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

**(a) Agenda Item 14 - New Members' Allowances Scheme**

The 35 Councillors present at the Council meeting [see the attendance list at top of this page] each disclosed a personal interest in Agenda Item 14 and the report on the New Members' Allowances Scheme (Minute 258 below), under Section 4 of the Spelthorne Members' Code of Conduct. Councillor I.J. Beardsmore also disclosed a further separate personal interest in Agenda Item 14 and the report on the New Members' Allowances Scheme (Minute 258 below), under Section 4 of the Spelthorne Members' Code of Conduct, because of his membership of the Surrey County Council Pension Scheme.

**(b) Agenda Item 11 - Notice of Motion**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Davies, and the Deputy Leader, Councillor J.D. Packman each declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11, the Notice of Motion about badges for the Leader and Deputy Leader (Minute 255 below), under Section 4 of the Spelthorne Members' Code of Conduct, and both left the meeting during the consideration of this matter.

**247/03 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**(a) Announcements by The Mayor**

**Spelthorne Design Awards**

The Mayor, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, presented the Spelthorne Design Awards for 2003 under various categories ranging from new commercial developments through to public art in

development. The Awards scheme was in its ninth year and its purpose was to recognise good design in recently completed schemes and to encourage high standards of design in new schemes by highlighting recent achievements. This year, from 27 nominations, the judges decided that 20 schemes deserved an award, with some schemes nominated in more than one category. Three levels of award were made: Full Award; Highly Commended and Commended. Under Environmental Improvements the Sunbury Cross Subway Mural had won an award, and the Mayor highlighted in particular the work by the young artists involved, the co-ordinating role of the Council's Arts and Heritage Development Officer and the various organisations who had provided invaluable support for the project.

#### **(b) Announcements by The Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive announced that the pedestrianised High Street, Staines and the overall regeneration of Staines Town Centre had been recognised in a set of national awards recently announced. The judging panel for the Annual Conference of the Association of Town Centre Managers for 2003 had awarded the Town a joint runner-up position for the category of "best completed project". The Council placed on record their thanks to the Spelthorne Officers involved in the projects for the pedestrianisation of High Street, Staines and the overall regeneration of Staines Town Centre for achieving this outstanding award.

### **248/03 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

#### **Electoral Commission's Report on the Cycle of Local Government Elections**

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive on the Electoral Commission's consultation document on the cycle of Local Government elections.

**RESOLVED** to agree that the response views expressed in the report of the Chief Executive, and any further comments from Members, be forwarded to the Electoral Commission in time for inclusion in the Commission's final recommendations to be submitted to the Secretary of State by 29th October 2003.

### **249/03 REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Davies, presented his report that outlined the various matters the Executive had dealt with since the last Council meeting. In moving the report the Leader invited comments or questions from Members that either he or the relevant Portfolio Holder would respond to, as necessary:

Councillor F. Davies reminded Members about the IDeA Seminar on 30th October and the presentation on their Peer Challenge report and he encouraged Members to attend.

[**Update:** This seminar has subsequently been cancelled as the IDeA were unable to attend.]

Councillor E. K. Culnane, the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Elderly Services, referred to the future additional costs to Spelthorne of running the Concessionary Fares Scheme and he suggested that in view of the cost of issue that eligible residents should only apply for a pass if they intended to use it.

Councillor J.D. Packman, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, commented on and responded to questions on the future of the Stanwell and Sunbury Common Community Warden Scheme and the Reassurance Project for Sunbury Common whereby the Surrey Police would be focusing more resources into the Spelthorne area and would be utilising the services of the full time Police Neighbourhood Specialist Officer and the Police Community Support Officer. He also reported on the progress on the provision of Youth Shelters in some of the Borough Parks.

The Council placed on record their thanks to the Sunbury Common Community Warden for his work on the scheme to date and wished him well in his new employment.

### **250/03 IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Improvement and Development Committee, Councillor A. P. Hirst, presented his report that outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

### **251/03 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Performance Management and Review Committee, Councillor Mrs. M. Hyams, presented her report that outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

### **252/03 LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor R. W. Sider, presented his report that outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

### **253/03 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor E. O'Hara, presented his report that outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

### **254/03 STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

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

### **255/03 MOTIONS**

Under Standing Order 14, it was proposed by Councillor R.W. Sider and Seconded by Councillor E. O'Hara that the Council consider the following Motion: "That the Council should provide the Leader and Deputy Leader with suitable badges denoting their office, such insignias to be worn by them at civic functions and civic occasions."

Upon being put to the vote, after the debate by Members, the Motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** to agree that the Council would provide the Leader and Deputy Leader with suitable badges denoting their office, such insignias to be worn by them at civic functions and civic occasions.

### **256/03 QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES**

Councillor Mrs. Ponton asked the Leader of the Council, the following:-

"Would the Leader of the Council be good enough to inform me when the Red Cross Community Centre in Glebeland Gardens, Shepperton, is going to be taken over by the Children's Playgroup?"

Councillor Mrs. Grant, the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Elderly Services, replied, as follows:-

"Members may recall that the decision to lease the Red Cross Community Centre in Shepperton to the Shepperton Pre-school playgroup was made by the Executive at its meeting of 3 September 2002.

Following the decision, works to the premises were commenced by the Council to make the premises suitable for re-letting. Whilst the legal officers have been corresponding with the Playgroup's solicitors and have drawn up the agreement for both parties to sign, the Playgroup themselves were not in a position to approve the lease terms until the works were completed and they could then carry out a full independent survey of the premises. Correspondence with the solicitors has recommenced recently and the lease terms are settled, save for insurance provisions.

It is important that the issue is resolved and there is every indication that the lease arrangements should be completed very shortly, probably by the end of October. Furthermore, Councillor Mrs. Ponton can be assured that the service to the users is continuing and the children and parents have not been directly affected by the legal process."

### **257/03 GENERAL QUESTIONS**

Councillor Beardsmore asked the Leader of the Council, the following:-

"Over the last few months the ODPM has been running a consultation on various aspects of PPG3. As nothing has appeared in the list of delegated decisions, or in the minutes of the Executive, I would like to know if the Council has responded; or intends to respond, to this consultation."

Councillor Davies, Leader of the Council, replied, as follows:-

"We are aware of the ODPM's consultation on proposed amendments to planning policy guidance Note 3, (PPG3), "Housing" and, in anticipation of the policy changes being suggested by the ODPM, we have already been applying the amended policy here in Spelthorne. Our Officers have sent an interim response to the consultation and a report on this matter will be presented to the Executive on 4th November 2003 for their approval."

Councillor Beardsmore asked the Leader of the Council one supplementary question, as follows:-

"Would the Leader please arrange for me to be sent a copy of the interim response to the consultation and a copy of the draft report to be presented to the Executive on 4th November 2003."

Councillor Davies, Leader of the Council, replied, as follows:-

"Yes, I will ask the Strategic Director (Community) to arrange for you to be sent a copy of the interim response to the consultation and a copy of the draft report to be presented to the Executive on 4th November 2003."

### **258/03 NEW MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

The Council considered the recommendations from an Independent Remuneration Panel about changes to its Scheme for Councillors' Allowances under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and about eligible Councillors being admitted to the Local Government Pension Scheme under The Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Compensation (Local Authority Members in England) Regulations 2003.

The Council after considering the recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel,

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That a new Members' Allowances scheme be put in place with immediate effect under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 and that the recommendations of Council's Independent Remuneration Panel be approved and the changes they have recommended be incorporated in the new allowances scheme.
- (2) That the new Members' Allowances scheme at (1) above, be put in place on the basis that the basic and special responsibility allowances should remain at their current level (with a review in 2004/2005), that travel and subsistence payments should increase so that they are the same as those payable to staff, and they should include a bicycle allowance. That the present arrangements for the Dependant's Carer's Allowance should remain the same. That the changes should be backdated to 1st May 2003 as permitted under the above regulations.
- (3) That under the Local Government Pension Scheme and Discretionary Compensation (Local Authority Members in England) Regulations 2003 arrangements be put in place at Spelthorne to enable eligible councillors to join the Local Government Pension Scheme and that the recommendation of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel be agreed as follows: "(1) That all the Council's Members, who are eligible for inclusion, should be offered entry into the pension scheme; (2) That

the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances should be treated as the basis in respect of which pensions should be payable; and (3) That membership of the pension scheme should be offered to eligible councillors retrospectively to 1st May 2003.”