

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH JUNE 2004

AT THE MEETING OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, KNOWLE GREEN, STAINES ON THURSDAY 24TH JUNE 2004 AT 7.30PM

Amos Mrs. P	Hirst A P	Pinkerton J D
Ayers F	Hyams Mrs M	Ponton Mrs J E
Bain Ms M	Jaffer H R	Royer M R
Beardsmore I J	James P R	Searancke E J
Bhadye S	Leighton Mrs V J	Sider R W
Colison-Crawford R B	Napper Mrs I	Spencer Mrs C L
Davies F (Leader)	O'Hara E	Strong C.V
D'Sa R V	Packman J D (Deputy Leader)	Trussler G F (Mayor)
J.M. Fullbrook	Paton J M	Turner D
Grant Mrs D L	Pinkerton Mrs J M	Wood-Dow J.M

G F Trussler, Mayor, in the Chair

**184/04 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G S Ceaser, R Chouhan, E K Culnane, G E Forsbrey, Mrs J B Langridge-John, S B S Lorch, Mrs M Madams and Mrs P Weston (Deputy Mayor) who was attending a Mayoral function in Surrey.

**185/04 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 20th May 2004 be approved as a correct record.

**186/04 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillor I.J. Beardsmore disclosed an interest in exempt item 16(a) on the Agenda – Surrey County Council Highways Claim - in his capacity as a County Councillor.

Councillor Mrs V.J. Leighton disclosed a personal interest under Section 4 of the Spelthorne Members' Code of Conduct in relation to the item about Police Community Support Officers – Parks, in the Report of the Leader on the work of the Executive.

Councillor H.R. Jaffer disclosed an interest under the Council's Planning Code in respect of 398 Staines Road West, Ashford, in the Report of the Chairman on the work of the Planning Committee.

**187/04 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR**

**Trident Memorial**

The Mayor reported that, in the company of other Borough Councillors, he had attended the dedication of the Memorial erected in remembrance of those who had lost their lives in the BAC one-eleven air crash in 1970. He recalled that the ceremony had been quiet and dignified. He then thanked Councillor O'Hara and Nigel Lynn, the Strategic Director (Community) for their work in achieving this Memorial.

## **Civic Service**

The Mayor reminded Members that if they wished to attend the Civic Service, replies would have to reach the Mayor's secretary by tomorrow, 25<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Mayors Charity Luncheon**

The Mayor announced that tickets were still available for the Mayor's Charity Luncheon being organised by Councillor Ceaser and that numbers were limited.

## **188/04 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER**

### **Trident Memorial**

The Leader, Councillor F. Davies, endorsed the comments and thanks proffered to Councillor O'Hara and Nigel Lynn by the Mayor and wished to extend the Council's thanks to Father Cosh for his involvement, participation and assistance with the event.

It was agreed that the Mayor should write, on behalf of all Councillors and residents thanking Father Cosh for his involvement, participation and assistance with the Memorial and event.

## **189/04 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **Memorial Gardens – Award**

The Chief Executive reported that, in the company of the Mayor, she had attended a ceremony to receive an award for Memorial Gardens, Staines which had been judged the Best Urban Green Space Development by the Local Government News. The Award was displayed at the meeting.

## **190/04 SPELTHORNE CORPORATE PLAN 2004/07**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on the Spelthorne Corporate Plan 2004/07 and

### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) to note the corporate strategic aims and targets for the Council listed in the Corporate Plan 2004/2007 and
- (b) to approve the Corporate Plan for adoption.

## **191/04 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME – DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES**

The Council considered the recommendations of the Executive on the Local Government Pension Scheme – Dispute Resolution Procedures and

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) To nominate the Monitoring Officer, the Assistant Chief Executives, the Strategic Directors and the Chief Executive within Spelthorne and the Pensions Manager at Surrey County Council as 'specified persons' to consider and determine first stage appeals against decisions made, or not made that affect employees' or their dependants' Local Government Pension Scheme [LGPS] benefits.
- (2) To adopt a procedure for dealing with disputes relating to the operation of the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) regulations 2000 which mirrors the LGPS IDRPs with the same timescales and requirements for contact with appellants.

- (3) To nominate the Monitoring Officer, the Assistant Chief Executives and the Strategic Directors as 'specified persons' to consider and determine first and second stage appeals relating to disputes in relation to compensation benefits under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2000.
- (4) That the decisions at (1) and (3) above could include nominating Surrey County Council to hear appeals on Spelthorne's behalf.
- (5) To agree that the same persons nominated in (3) above could be nominated to hear injury allowance appeals in the event that they become the responsibility of employers at some point in the future.
- (6) To agree that the person considering disputes at each stage should not have been involved in the original / previous decision.
- (7) That appropriate amendments be made to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in the Council's Constitution to delegate the Local Government Pension Scheme [LGPS] and compensation benefit appeals to the nominated 'specified persons' in the recommendations above.

#### **192/04 REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor F. Davies, presented his report which outlined the matters the Executive had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

#### **193/04 IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Improvement and Development Committee, Councillor A.P. Hirst, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting. He also drew Members attention to the change of date of the next Improvement and Development Committee from 23 September to 30 September, 2004.

#### **194/04 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Performance Management and Review Committee, Councillor F. Ayers presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

#### **195/04 LICENSING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee, Councillor R.W. Sider, presented his report which outlined the matters the Licensing Sub-Committees had dealt with since the last Council meeting. He also reported that training in respect of the new licensing legislation was being arranged for Members during October 2004.

#### **196/04 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Mrs C. Spencer, presented her report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

#### **197/04 WARD ISSUES**

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor D. Turner asked Councillor J. D. Packman, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, the following question:

"Will the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety investigate with Surrey Police whether Shortwood Common and Shortwood Pond, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, can be better protected from ongoing incursion from youths who consume drugs and alcohol, stone and destroy wildlife, light fires and intimidate the farmer and cattle. Recent Section 30 orders in

Leacroft have had some effect, but residents continue to be concerned at the extent of the problem which requires immediate attention."

Councillor J D Packman, the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, responded as follows:

"Following complaints from residents during May this year concerning anti-social behaviour on the Shortwood Common, the matter was raised at the multi-agency Joint Action Group [JAG] that aims to tackle crime hot-spot areas. As a result, additional Police patrols, including the Neighbourhood Officers, Police Community Support Officers [PCSOs] and the Parks PCSO were allocated to the area. In addition, the Borough Council cleared graffiti and the County Council repaired the damaged fencing.

At the last JAG meeting, it was reported that no further complaints had been made to the Police and that the local residents panel representatives felt that the situation had improved significantly.

I am also aware of the recent local newspaper reports about ongoing problems, which are refuted by the Police for the reasons outlined above.

However, as there appears to be disagreement about the current levels of anti-social behaviour, I have asked the Officers to discuss the matter further with the Police and to report back to me on the outcome. These discussions will include the possible use of new dispersal powers open to the Police, which can be implemented with the consent of the Council. I will write to all Members on the outcome of these discussions."

#### **198/04 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

(a) **Appointment of Trustees - Spelthorne Mental Health Association [SMHA] Management Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the appointment of Trustees to the Spelthorne Mental Health Association [SMHA] Management Committee be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

(b) **Appointment to the Arts Council England, South East Regional Council**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor E.K. Culnane be nominated to serve as a Regional representative for Surrey on the Arts Council England, South East Regional Council.

(c) **Appointment of a Corporation Governor - Spelthorne College Corporation**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs J. Pinkerton be appointed to serve as a Governor on the Spelthorne College Corporation.

#### **199/04 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated above.

#### **200/04 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS CLAIM**

**(Paragraph 9 – Terms of a Contract)**

**RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive be authorised to seek the settlement of this outstanding dispute with the County Council in the sum of £250,000.