

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 JULY 2004
AT THE MEETING OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, KNOWLE GREEN, STAINES ON
THURSDAY 22 JULY 2004 AT 7.30PM

Amos Mrs. P	Fullbrook J M	Pinkerton J D
Ayers F	Hirst A P	Ponton Mrs J E
Beardsmore I J	Hyams Mrs M	Royer M R
Bouquet M L	Jaffer H R	Searancke E J
Ceaser G S	James P R	Sider R W
Chouhan K	Leighton Mrs V J	Spencer Mrs C L
Culnane E K	Madams M J	Trussler G F (Mayor)
Davies F (Leader)	O'Hara E	Turner D
D'Sa R V	Packman J D (Deputy Leader)	Weston Mrs P (Deputy Mayor)
Forsbrey G E	Pinkerton Mrs J M	Wood-Dow J.M

Co-Opted member: Mr M. Litvak

G F Trussler, Mayor, in the Chair

219/04 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss M. Bain, R.B. Colison-Crawford, Mrs D.L. Grant (who was attending a Portfolio Holder event), J B Langridge-John, S. B. S. Lorch, Mrs I. Napper, J. M. Paton and C. V. Strong.

220/04 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 June 2004 be approved as a correct record. Councillor R.W. Sider took the opportunity of informing members that a members training event on the forthcoming licensing regulations would take place on 11 October 2004.

221/04 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

222/04 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor reminded members that places were still available for the Mayor's Charity Luncheon and tickets were on sale for the concert on 17 October, 2004 with full details being obtained from his secretary. The Mayor also hoped that members would support the River Day event by displaying the posters they had received.

223/04 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER

ANN DAVEY

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Davies, reported that this was the last meeting that Ann Davey would attend before her retirement in September 2004. He paid tribute to her loyalty and commitment and for being a first class officer for the Council in particular the many major projects that she had been involved with over the years and for the thoroughness in providing guidance to all members.

He placed on record the Council's thanks and appreciation for her contribution to the work of the authority and extended best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

The Mayor of the Council, Councillor G.F. Trussler, and the Leader of the opposition Group, Councillor I.J. Beardsmore also paid tribute to Ann Davey and expressed their appreciation for the support she had given to all members.

Anonymous Press Coverage

The Leader expressed his abhorrence over learning that a member had allegedly provided an anonymous comment about an exempt report to the local press, although the information provided was incorrect. The Deputy Editor had agreed to rectify the matter in the next edition of the newspaper. He expressed concern that it appeared that a member had preferred to report incorrect information to the press rather than discussing the matter with himself, the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer.

224/04 ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Investors in People Reassessment

The Chief Executive reported on the successful outcome of the reassessment for Investors in People and thanked staff and members who had been involved.

225/04 MEETING ADJOURNED

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for five minutes to enable petitions to be received from Mrs Linda Burton and Councillors A.P. Hirst and Mrs D. Turner. The petitions related to the possible closure of post offices around the Borough

The Mayor reconvened the meeting.

226/04 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2003/2004

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive on the Council's Financial Statement of Accounts for 2003/2004.

RESOLVED that the Council approve the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2003/2004 and agree that these Accounts be signed by the Leader of the Council.

227/04 MANDATORY DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT BUDGET 2004/2005

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive to approve a supplementary budget to ensure sufficient funds were available to cover the costs of works for grants that would be ready for approval and payment during the remainder of 2004/2005.

RESOLVED:

1. That additional capital funding of £250,000 for 2004/2005 be approved for Mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants; and
2. The Head of Environmental Health and Building Control Services be authorised to make representations to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) to request that Spelthorne receives a 60% contribution (£150,000) from the Government towards the additional costs at (1) above.

228/04 MONITORING OFFICER PROTOCOL

The Council considered the recommendation of the Standards Committee to adopt a Monitoring Officer protocol and to include this and reference to the appointment of a Deputy Monitoring Officer in the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Monitoring Officer Protocol, as submitted and [attached](#), be adopted and included in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution; and
2. The appointment of a Deputy Monitoring Officer be referred to in the Council's Constitution.

229/04 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.

230/04 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, presented his report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

231/04 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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

232/04 NOTICE OF MOTION

In accordance with Standing Order 14 it was proposed by Councillor E. O'Hara and seconded by Councillor P.R. James:

"That this Authority notes the proposals by the Post Office in its recent letter, and that the Council deplors these measures as unhelpful and damaging to the interests of the Community generally, and to elderly and infirm people particularly.

In the event that the Post Office is minded to proceed with these changes, then this Council asks that the Post Office delay implementation, and discuss with local representatives, how the changes may be tempered by the introduction of automatic teller machines and any other appropriate measures."

RESOLVED:

1. That the motion be adopted; and
2. Councillor J.D. Packman, the Deputy Leader, together with the relevant ward members meet with representatives from the Post Office to discuss the matter.

233/04 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES - APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES - SPELTHORNE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION [SMHA] MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs C.L. Spencer be appointed to serve as a Trustee to the Spelthorne Mental Health Association [SMHA] Management Committee.

234/04 URGENT ITEM – APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER

The Mayor reported that he had agreed to take this as an urgent item because in his opinion a decision was required now and could not wait until the next scheduled Council meeting in October, as the existing post holder would be leaving at the end of September.

The Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the need to set up an Appointments Committee to appoint a new Head of Corporate Governance.

RESOLVED to establish an Appointments Committee to make an appointment to the post of Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer, the Committee to comprise 3 members of the Conservative Group and 1 Liberal Democrat member, with the Chief Executive authorised to appoint members in accordance with the nominations of the respective political Group Leaders.