

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2005

AT THE MEETING OF THE SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, KNOWLE GREEN, STAINES ON THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2005 AT 7.30PM

Ayers F.	Fullbrook J.M.	Pinkerton Mrs J.M.
Bain Ms M.	Grant Mrs D.L.	Pinkerton J.D.
Beardsmore I.J.	Hyams Mrs M.	Ponton Mrs J.E.
Bhadye S.	Jaffer H.R.	Royer M.T. (Deputy Mayor)
Ceaser G.S. (Leader)	James P.R.	Sider R.W.
Chouhan K.	Leighton Mrs V.J.	Spencer Mrs C.L.
Culnane E.K. (Deputy Leader)	Madams M.J.	C.V. Strong
Davies F.	O'Hara E.	Trussler G.F.
Forsbrey G.E.	Packman J.D.	Turner Mrs D.
	Paton J.M.	

Co-opted Member - Mr M. Litvak

M. T. Royer, Deputy Mayor, in the Chair

207/05 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P.C. Amos, M.L. Bouquet, R.B. Colison-Crawford, A.P. Hirst, Mrs J.B. Langridge-John, Mrs I. Napper, E.J. Searancke and Mrs P. Weston (Mayor) who was attending a Civic Event.

208/05 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 19 May 2005 be approved as a correct record.

209/05 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Trident Memorial Service

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Malcolm Royer, thanked those Councillors who had attended the Trident Memorial Service and Councillor O'Hara for organising the event.

210/05 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LEADER

The Leader, Councillor Gerry Ceaser in conjunction with Councillor Mrs Denise Grant Portfolio Holder, Children and Young People Services, praised those who had participated in the ninth Surrey Youth Games held over two weekends, 11/12 and 18/19 June in blistering sunshine, when 2600 young sports people from all over Surrey competed at Guildford. Councillor Ceaser was pleased to report that Spelthorne youth had achieved nine medals, six more than last year.

211/05 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Under Standing Order 12, Mr. K. Johnson of 9 Springfield Grove, Sunbury, Middlesex asked the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Planning, Councillor Gerry Forsbrey, the following question on Waste Recycling:

"I acknowledge that Spelthorne have made recent improvements in the range of materials collected for recycling, however I should like to know:

1. What plans do Spelthorne have for recycling plastics which are now a significant component of household waste?
2. Are there any plans for collection of cardboard which is recyclable?
3. Does Spelthorne have any plans to carry out its own composting of green waste to prevent dependence on other agencies?
(I have been aware at Charlton Waste Transfer Station of a number of occasions when the "green" hatches have been closed and garden waste has been loaded with general matter.)
4. Whilst Spelthorne has a one-year recycling target, what targets have been set for each of the next five years?

Councillor Forsbrey responded:

- 1) We currently don't collect plastics because of the nature of our collection system which we are tied into contractually until November 2006. Also, due to its bulk but light weight it is expensive to collect. However, we are currently reviewing future waste collection strategies for operations after November 2006.
- 2) Under the current recycling contract, our contractor will only take paper. Cardboard can be taken to Charlton Lane civil amenity site. Once again we aim to review this in the future.
- 3) Spelthorne operates a green waste collection system with green waste going to a composting site at Harefield. If composting took place within the Borough a large site would be needed and may not be cost effective. Charlton Lane is managed by Surrey Waste Management and therefore, I cannot answer in relation to the closure of the hatches for green waste.
- 4) This year (2005/06) the target is 30%. To achieve this target will prove difficult but, with the help of Spelthorne's residents, we will do our utmost to achieve this and therefore I would like to thank Mr Johnson for his interest and support in recycling in the Borough. For future targets we are awaiting guidance from the Government.

212/05 CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION – MONITORING OFFICER PROTOCOL

The Council noted the appointment of Victoria Monk, Principal Solicitor, as the Deputy Monitoring Officer, which required some amendments to the Monitoring Officer Protocol under Part 5, section (h), of the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED to agree the necessary changes to the Constitution.

213/05 BYELAWS UNDER PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982, AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003, ON BODY PIERCING, ELECTROLYSIS, ACUPUNCTURE, TATTOOING AND SEMI PERMANENT SKIN COLOURING

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive on the adoption by the Council of Byelaws on body piercing, electrolysis, acupuncture, tattooing and semi permanent skin colouring.

RESOLVED

- (1) That Byelaws be made under Sections 14 to 17 inclusive of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by Section 120 and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act 2003) for the control of acupuncture, tattooing, cosmetic (body) piercing, semi permanent skin colouring and electrolysis to apply to the area of this Council.
- (2) That the Byelaws shall be in the form as set out in Appendices I (“Cosmetic Piercing and Electrolysis”) II (“Acupuncture”) and III (“Tattooing and Semi-Permanent Skin Colouring”) of the Report of the Strategic Director (Community) to the Licensing Committee.
- (3) That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Byelaws.
- (4) That the Council’s Head of Corporate Governance be authorised to carry out the necessary procedure and to apply to the Secretary of State for confirmation of such Byelaws.

214/05 SPELTHORNE CORPORATE PLAN 2005/2008

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive on the draft Spelthorne Corporate Plan 2005/2008.

RESOLVED that the Council notes the corporate strategic aims and targets for the Council listed in the Corporate Plan 2005/2008 and approves the Corporate Plan for adoption.

215/05 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Council considered a recommendation from the Standards Committee on the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations.

RESOLVED that the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations be amended to provide a reference to Freedom of Information on the following lines:

‘Officers are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Members may also be subject to the Act in respect of work undertaken on behalf of the Council as opposed to the political party. Both are reminded of their duties under the FOIA in respect of requests for information and any questions in this area should be addressed to the Council’s Freedom of Information Officer.’

216/05 REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Leader of the Council, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, presented his first report since taking on that office, which outlined the matters the Executive had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

217/05 IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Vice Chairman of the Improvement and Development Committee, Councillor H.R. Jaffer, presented the Chairman's report which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

218/05 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.

219/05 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.

220/05 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.

221/05 QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor R.W. Sider asked Councillor G.S. Ceaser, the Leader, the following question about Shepperton Post Office.

' Can the leader inform Cllr Leighton and myself as to what progress there has been since the Council last communicated with the Post Office Authorities informing them that this Council was unanimous in supporting a vote of no confidence in their administration of the closed Shepperton Branch.? And can the Leader assure me and those we represent that this Council will continue to lobby the Post Office Authorities, drawing to their attention the constant and unacceptable hardship this closure has caused both to the elderly, infirm and disabled members of our community, and to the very economic viability of our Village.'

The Leader replied, as follows: -

"Firstly, I can confirm that following the Executive meeting held on 24 May 2005 I wrote to Mr Allan Leighton, Chairman of the Royal Mail Group plc, expressing the Council's concern and dismay at the current position of not having a Post Office in Shepperton. I can report that I received a reply on 9 June 2005 indicating that a full response will be provided when his enquiries have been completed.

I can assure both the Shepperton ward members and the public that we are still in correspondence with the Post Office.

The Post Office has assured this Council that they are "doing as much as they possibly can to get problems resolved and their determination to re-open the Post Office remains."

Under Standing Order 13 Councillor R.W. Sider asked Councillor G.E. Forsbrey, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Planning, the following question about parking in Shepperton.

'In view of the number of complaints received from residents living in and around Church Square, and Chertsey Road, Shepperton concerning parking on double yellow lines, can the Leader inform me as to what measures are being taken to monitor this situation, what are the number of hours of parking enforcement allotted to Shepperton, are the parking enforcement officers employed during the evening, and over what period, how many parking enforcement tickets have been issued for parking irregularities in Chertsey Road, Shepperton.'

The Portfolio Holder Councillor Forsbrey replied as follows: -

“Members will be aware that this Council began patrols under police powers in October 2004 to enforce decriminalised parking, that is, yellow line enforcement procedures.

In April 2005 this Council has been progressing this arrangement ourselves under an agreement with Surrey County Council. Since April two officers have been on duty to deal with decriminalised parking six days a week for single yellow lines and seven days a week for double yellow lines and, since April 2005, a total of eight man days have been allocated to Shepperton. However, the three hour waiting restriction in Shepperton High Street does cause difficulties with enforcement and reducing this time period will be considered in the near future. Parking penalty notices have been issued in Shepperton but it would be a painstaking process to evaluate how many tickets have been issued in specific streets within Shepperton.

With regard to Chertsey Bridge Road, parking attendants have been liaising with Surrey Police on a joint approach to continued parking problems and joint enforcement programme is being arranged for the very near future.

With regards to the evening hours that parking attendants are available, enforcement can take place at any time of the day or evening to ensure that parking restrictions are enforced.”

222/05 ENDORSEMENT OF NOMINATION TO SERVE ON LOCAL SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

St Ignatius RC Primary School, Sunbury

The Clerk to Governing Body of St Ignatius RC Primary School, on behalf of the School Governors, sought the Council's endorsement on the appointment of Mr. Mark Heuchan as the minor authority representative on the Governing Body for the period until September 2006.

RESOLVED to endorse the appointment of Mr. Mark Heuchan as the minor authority representative on the Governing Body of St Ignatius RC Primary School for the period until September 2006.

223/05 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.

224/05 LEISURE CENTRE PROCUREMENT UPDATE

(Paragraph 9 - *Terms of an existing Contract and proposed Terms of a new Contract*)

The Council considered the recommendation of the Executive in relation to an update on the Leisure Centre Procurement.

RESOLVED to

1. Note the interim findings in the procurement process.
2. Agree the new decision-making timetable as reported by the Strategic Director (Community).
3. Agree to extend the present contract with SLM for up to 6 months until the end of March 2006.
4. Agree to the Council's Treasury Management Policy being altered to authorise the principle of borrowing up to £3million for the leisure centre, in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young people services, should the evaluation prove that it is both advantageous and prudent to do so.