

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2006

BOROUGH OF SPELTHORNE

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

Ayers F.	Hirst A.P. (Deputy Mayor)	Pinkerton Mrs. J.M.
Bain Miss M.M.	Hyams Mrs. M.	Pinkerton J.D.
Bouquet M.L.	Jaffer H.R.	Royer M.T (Mayor)
Ceaser G.S. (Leader)	James P.R.	Searancke E.J.
Chouhan K.	Lorch S.B.S.	Sider R.W.
Colison-Crawford R.B.	Madams Mrs. M.	Spencer Mrs. C.L.
Culnane E.K. (Deputy Leader)	Napper Mrs. I.	Strong C.V.
Davies F.	O'Hara E.	Trussler G.F.
Forsbrey G.E.	Packman J.D.	Turner Mrs D.
Grant Mrs. D.L.	Paton J.M.	

Co-Opted Member: Mr. M. Litvak

Councillor M.T. Royer, The Mayor, in the Chair

191/06 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. P.C. Amos, I.J. Beardmore, J.M. Fullbrook, Mrs. V.J. Leighton, Mrs. J.E. Ponton, Mrs. P. Weston and Mrs J.M. Wood-Dow.

192/06 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2006 be approved as a correct record.

193/06 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Councillor E. O'Hara declared a personal interest in Minute 197/06 below, relating to the Amalgamation of the Poors Charity with the Staines Parochial Charity, as he was currently a serving Trustee on the Staines Parochial Charity.

194/06 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

(a) Mayoral Announcements

The Mayor [Councillor Royer] announced details of three Mayoral events, as follows:-

(1) Mayor's Civic Service at St. Peter's Church, Laleham Road, Staines at 3.00pm on Sunday 25th June 2006.

(2) Linden Wind Orchestra Musical Soiree at Shepperton Studios at 7.30pm on Saturday 8th July 2006.

(3) Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Spelthorne Civic Pride Volunteers – Awards presentation ceremony by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, Mrs. Sarah Goad, in the Council Chamber at Knowle Green at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th July 2006.

The Mayor requested that as many Members as possible attend the above events and advised that further details, including tickets for event (2), were available from his Secretary.

(b) Presentation of the 2005 Civic Pride Environmental Awards

The Mayor introduced the Awards and indicated that 2005 was an especially significant year, as the Spelthorne Civic Pride Volunteers had been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This would be presented to the Volunteers by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey at a ceremony on 27th July. The Volunteers had begun in 1989 and the Awards Scheme had started in 1992. The Scheme was an important means of recognising the valuable work undertaken by volunteers in improving the environment of our Borough. Civic Pride continued to be very successful in the Borough and they currently had four ongoing Community Projects which were:- Black Ditch Walk in Shepperton [their first project], Laleham Pond, Millennium Wood and St. Nicholas Nature Reserve, Shepperton. Sponsorship for Civic Pride projects was received from local and multi-national companies.

There would be a special Wildlife Open Day at The Funky Footprints Nature Reserve on Saturday 8th July from 11am to 4pm to enable local people to learn more about the environment and volunteering. There would also be a special Laleham Pond project 10th Birthday celebration at that location on Saturday, 15th July from 11am to 4 pm.

The Mayor and Jill Stephens then presented the Senior Environmental Award [which for 2005 would be shared jointly] to Mr. Hugh Evans for his work at the Funky Footprints Nature Reserve and to Mr. Peter Routley for his work at the Swan Sanctuary.

They then presented the Junior Award to Matthew Arnold School for their work in caring for their environment and setting up a Nature Reserve at the School.

195/06 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Mayor reported that under Standing Order 12, three questions had been received from members of the public. He invited each person to put their question in turn, and for responses to be given by either the Leader or the responsible Executive Portfolio Holder. He confirmed that a written response would also be sent to the questioners.

(a) Question from Mr. Seaman:

"A report about air pollution in Sunbury was published in the Staines Leader on 4 May 2006. It included comments by Tracey Willmott French who is the Principal Pollution Control Officer for Spelthorne Borough Council."

She said "We have to be sure to monitor the levels [of nitrogen dioxide] over a sensible period of time."

How long is that period of time?

There are five monitoring stations in Sunbury.

How long has each been in operation?

So far, are the concentrations of nitrogen dioxide remaining the same, going up or going down?

If there are changes are they significant?"

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor G.E. Forsbrey, responded as follows:

"Thank you Mr. Seaman for your question. Ensuring good air quality is one of our Community Plan targets within the Thriving Spelthorne theme, which I am represented on. As the response is quite complicated and long winded, I will summarise the written response that you will receive.

In relation to how long we need to monitor the levels of nitrogen dioxide, it depends on how the data is to be used. Ideally the longer the better to be able to accurately compare year on year results, to ensure they are not skewed by factors such as the weather and major roadworks. At least one year and ideally three years is the answer to your question.

Secondly, in relation to the time that the monitoring stations have been in operation, this ranges from January 1995 (at the Benwell Centre), July 1995 (The Parade and Staines Road West), December 2003 (Vicarage Road and St Ignatius School) and May 2004 (Green Street).

Finally, in relation to the results for 2005 comparisons with previous years, nitrogen dioxide levels have risen in the Sunbury Cross area with the exception of the Benwell Centre. In fact, overall, since 1999, levels have reduced in the area around the Benwell Centre. Levels at the Parade have risen for both 2004 and 2005.

The written response will also provide a graph showing you how the levels have changed over recent years.

I can assure you, Mr Seaman, that the Council is trying to identify what direct actions we could take to try to reduce nitrogen dioxide emissions in the Sunbury area although I suspect you realise how difficult this will be to achieve. Any additional measures (such as 'traffic flow management') will need to be progressed with other agencies such as the Highways Agency, DEFRA and Surrey County Council.

Thank you once again for your interest in this matter."

(b) Question from Mrs. Nichols:

"1) The Police Training College in Sunbury:

The community in Lower Sunbury understands that the Metropolitan Police are intending to dispose of the training college. Has the college been sold and have pre-application discussions started with Spelthorne's planning department?

Why does this site - which is very significant for Lower Sunbury - not appear in the Local Development Framework?

This site would be ideal in terms of size and location on which to reproduce a sheltered housing scheme like the Brockhill complex in Woking. Would Spelthorne BC consider approaching the Metropolitan Police to make this site available for a similar scheme, bearing in mind that Spelthorne is expected to facilitate four more such schemes in addition to Beechwood Court?"

The Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, responded as follows:-

"Unfortunately, I am not able to confirm whether the training college has been sold or otherwise. I can advise that the Planning Department is aware that the college are looking at various options, but I understand that to date there have been no detailed discussions to date. As you will know, the Planning Department actively encourages pre-application discussions, and are happy to look at future possibilities with the police prior to their submission of any application, if they wish to do so.

The Local Development Framework [LDF] document sets out the vision for the future of the borough with core strategic policies, plus more detailed policies and a number of supplementary planning documents. The Preferred Options consultation (which closed

on 15 June) sought comments on the core strategy, detailed policies and site specific allocations. Any additional sites, which have been suggested as part of this process, will be considered in the coming months or so by the policy and implementation team.

There are only 12 site specific allocations in the Preferred Options LDF, which relate to housing, town centre developments and other developments. These sites are considered to be the ones, which will assist to the greatest extent in delivering the overall strategy (for example in terms of meeting the required housing numbers). The aim was to include only larger sites within the borough (that is over 0.47 Hectare), which are, for example capable of bringing forward a substantial number of residential units.

It is acknowledged that in the eyes of Lower Sunbury residents this site is extremely important. However, the fact that it has not been specifically allocated in the LDF does not mean that any application for future development (residential or otherwise) would not be considered in a positive light, but that will depend upon the specifics of the scheme, which may or may not come forward.”

(c) Question from Mrs. Nichols:

“2) TP26 - Linear Park and Combined pedestrian and cycle route, Sunbury.

The Surrey Local Area Committee in Spelthorne voted on Monday to make funds available for a pedestrian and cycle route along the greenspace known as TP26.

The actual position of the paths cannot be finalised without an associated landscape plan. As landscaping was outside the remit of Surrey County Council's highways' department. Spelthorne Borough Council kindly offered to undertake a second public consultation to take account of landscaping issues. Presumably this consultation will take place after legal title has been transferred.

How does Spelthorne BC envisage the process going forward? When can we expect the second consultation?”

The Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy, Councillor G.S. Ceaser, responded as follows:-

“I did indicate at the Local Committee that once the land is transferred to Spelthorne we can then put into place the plans that are contained in the Borough Plan to transform this piece of land into a Linear Park.

I can assure you that Spelthorne Borough Council will consult with local communities on the issues relating to a Linear Park once the legal transfer has taken place. Surrey County Council have not been able to give us a final timescale for the completion date and therefore we cannot be specific as to when consultation will take place. However, consultation will involve the local community and residents, including LOSRA, Kempton Park Residents' Association and Friends of Sunbury Park.”

196/06 OUTTURN AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005/2006

A copy of the Council's Accounts for 2005/2006 had been circulated to all Members with the Agenda for the Executive on 20 June.

RESOLVED to approve the Statement of Accounts for 2005/2006 and to authorise them to be signed by the Leader of the Council.

197/06 AMALGAMATION OF THE POORS CHARITY WITH THE STAINES PAROCHIAL CHARITY

RESOLVED to endorse the amalgamation of the Pools Charity with the Staines Parochial Charity, as approved by the Charity Commission.

198/06 REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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

199/06 IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Improvement and Development Committee, Councillor J.D. Packman, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

200/06 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.

201/06 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Audit Committee, Councillor M.L. Bouquet, presented his report, which outlined the matters the Committee had dealt with since the last Council meeting.

202/06 LICENSING COMMITTEE

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

203/06 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.

204/06 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.

205/06 QUESTIONS ON WARD ISSUES

Under Standing Order 13, Councillor R.W. Sider, asked the following question:

“In view of the constant vandalism of Shepperton Scout Hut, and some 60 youths marauding in Shepperton High Street late in the evening last week, will this Council make Surrey County Council Youth Services aware of these problems, and in doing so ask what plans are in place to staff Shepperton Youth Centre on a more regular basis, thereby assisting its partner in one of its priorities, that of making Spelthorne a better place?”

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Community Liaison, Councillor E.K. Culnane, responded as follows:-

“As I am sure Councillor Sider is aware, the statutory role for services for young people is with Surrey County Council. I understand that, following the Surrey County Council business development review, Shepperton and Stanwell Youth Centres will have further sessions for young people.

Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey County Council do work together through the Youth Council Younger People's Implementation group and the Younger People's Partnership. For example, the Live and Direct music programme for young people has been provided in Shepperton and a number of live events have been held at Shepperton Village Hall.

The Police have identified the park in Shepperton as a dedicated beat site during the police shift.

I can assure Councillor Sider that, through the Young People's Officer, implementation group, Spelthorne Borough Council will continue to work with Surrey County Council to provide a range of activities for young people.”